

SERVANTS AND MASTERS

EPH. 6:5-9

Introduction:

A. The work force in the times of Paul was principally that of slaves.

1. servants = doulos = a slave, one bound to serve, the lowest scale of servitude.

2. Slavery as an institution in New Testament times is dealt with in the same way that despotism is treated. It is neither enjoined nor forbidden. The Bible does not treat it as evil or good. It deals with the behaviour of the slave and the master.

B. What we may learn from this is from the employee-employer relationship.

1. How should employees treat employers?

2. How should employers treat employees?

I. THE WORKERS [SERVANTS] ATTITUDE TOWARD HIS JOB. V5-8

A. "servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ."

1. obedient = hupakouo - to hear, to listen, with the idea of obeying.

2. masters = kurios - lord, principal, ruler.

a. "according to the flesh."

b. As opposed to the Spirit!

3. fear - phobos : trembling = tromos - tremble.

4. singleness = aplotes - simplicity, sincerity.

5. "as unto Christ," a religious duty.

B. "not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart." v6

1. eyeservice = ophthalmoulia - labour when the

master is present but relaxation & laziness as soon as he is gone.

2. menpleasers = anthropareskos - one who tries to please men at the expense of principle.
3. as the servants of Christ.
4. doing the will of God from the heart.

C. v7, "with good will doing service as to the Lord and not to man."

1. good will = eunoia = good will, Ready good will which does not wait to be compelled.
2. service = douleuo - to serve as a slave.
3. "and working for the Master and not for men."

D. v8, "Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord whether he be bond or free."

1. good thing = agathos = worthy of admiration.
2. receive - Komizomai - to receive back, to receive back as a deposit, an adequate return.
3. bond = doulos - a slave.
4. free = eleutheros - one who can go where he will, at liberty, free.

II. THE BOSSES ATTITUDE TOWARD HIS WORKERS.

A. "and ye masters do the same things to them, forbearing threatening."

1. Masters = kurios - lord, principal ruler.
2. "act toward your slaves on the same principles."
3. forbearing = anemi - to let up, let go, relax, loosen.
4. threatening = apeile - threatening, threats.

B. "Knowing that your Master also is in heaven."

1. No boss is so great that he does not have a bigger boss somewhere.
2. The Lord in heaven is over every Christian.

- C. "neither is there respect of persons with him."
 - 1. respect of persons = prosopolempsia - acceptance of persons, partiality.
 - 2. He makes no distinction between master and man.

III. THE ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES OF TENSION IN THE WORKPLACE.

- A. The physical health is affected.
 - 1. Headaches, hypertension, high blood pressure.
- B. Mental health is affected.
 - 1. Anger, bitterness, distress.
- C. Relationships are disturbed.
 - 1. Tensions at family level.
- D. Productivity suffers and goals are not achieved.

IV. THE KEY TO ACCEPTING OUR WORKING CONDITIONS.

- A. "in singleness of heart, as unto Christ."
- B. "as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart."
- C. "with goodwill doing service as to the Lord, and not to men."
- D. "knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free."