

Serve Well

[Eph 6:5-9 ESV] 5 Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, 6 not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, 7 rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, 8 knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free. 9 Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.

I. Intro

- A. There is a theme found in the specific instruction given in chapters 5-6:
 - 1. Yield to God
 - 2. Do right in your actions
 - 3. Serve well as you serve Jesus and people
 - 4. You are not your own
 - 5. Walk as children of light!
- B. Instructions are given to all:
 - 1. Husbands cannot separate the instructions to wives, because it is connected to the instruction given to them as well.
 - 2. Parents cannot separate the instruction to children, because it is connected to the instruction given to them as well.
 - 3. We see it today in another practical way.
- C. We have handled:
 - 1. Proper relationship and roles in marriage
 - 2. Proper response of children
 - 3. Proper leadership of children by parents
- D. Today: Bond servants and Bosses
 - 1. In bringing this truth to modern times, we see it applies to us though we don't use the term bondservant or master often
 - 2. We can see the direct correlation to employees and employers
- E. As we serve the Lord here on earth, we are demonstrating the LOVE we have for HIM.
- F. We we serve, we are WORSHIPPING, in our jobs, classrooms, ministry positions, EVERYWHERE!

II. Text

- A. Verse 5:
 - 1. Bondservant: One who chooses to be in servitude to a master
 - 2. Sincere heart, as you would serve Christ
- B. Verses 6-7:
 - 1. Not eye-service or people pleasing:
 - a) Many of us struggle with this
 - b) Serving with excellence because the master/boss is watching
 - 2. As bondservants of Christ: THIS IS WHO YOU SERVE
 - 3. Doing the will of God from the heart: when the motivation is not a heart for God motivation, it'll show.
- C. Verse 8: Reward
 - 1. Reward is promised
 - 2. This reward is also fruit grown over many seasons
 - 3. Serving out of purity will grow your trust in the Lord!
- D. Verse 9:
 - 1. Lead well when you are over someone else
 - 2. We have an opportunity to show our employees what it means to be a follower of Christ.

III. Point

A. Sincere Heart of Service

1. Motivation comes from the heart.
2. We are motivated when we see our job/ministry/task as an opportunity to show our love for Jesus as we serve.
3. This is a battle that we all face, some are in more difficult places than others:
 - a) Don't let anything steal your joy in serving, resist the discouragement that comes from our enemy.
 - b) Don't let a bad boss cause you to justify bad reactions, you are not ultimately serving that boss, you are serving Jesus.
4. When you see your life as a calling to honor the Lord:
 - a) Then whatever you are doing is your ministry
 - b) If your current job is what you believe to be your life calling, you may find the heart guiding your sincerity.
 - c) If you are serving in a job that seems to be different than your life calling, you need a reminder from time to time.
5. My life before ministry:
 - a) I knew I was to serve in ministry, but I also needed a job
 - b) I worked in a couple of restaurants for a guy in our church, and I learned to love it, and God shaped me by the assignment
 - c) I then worked at a paint store, and I learned to love it, and I learned to see the assignment as a blessing.
 - d) All that I experienced in jobs that were not my calling, allowed me to appreciate people, learn something about myself and others, and be a better minister.
6. [Col 3:22-24 ESV] 22 Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. 23 Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

B. Sincere Actions of Service

1. Actually work diligently
 - a) Don't pretend and see what little you can get by with.
 - b) This is the action of a sluggard
 - c) Work diligently, with the power of Christ, even when no-one is looking.
2. The scripture is full of reminders regarding this truth:
 - a) [Pro 6:6-11 ESV] 6 Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. 7 Without having any chief, officer, or ruler, 8 she prepares her bread in summer and gathers her food in harvest. 9 How long will you lie there, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep? 10 A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, 11 and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.
 - b) The Sluggard is not working as unto the Lord
3. The Gospel Coalition Derek Brown writes 8 things regarding a sluggard:
 - a) The Sluggard will not start things
 - b) The Sluggard will not finish things
 - c) The Sluggard will not face hard things
 - d) The Sluggard will be anxious and restless
 - e) The Sluggard has constant trouble
 - f) The Sluggard is a nuisance to others
 - g) The Sluggard is self deceived
 - h) The Sluggard will not become a leader
 - i) Good News for Sinful Sluggards
 - j) Indulging laziness is contrary to our design as humans and contrary to our calling as Christians. But we can't draw ourselves out of the morass of inaction

by sheer determination. We need God's grace and a glimpse of Christ revealed in the gospel.

- k) The good news of salvation apart from works motivates us to labor diligently in this brief life on earth for the glory of God, the good of others, and our own benefit. And the energizing Spirit of Christ compels us to sharpen our God-given skills so we might be useful to our King and to our fellow man, to courageously face and complete difficult tasks, and to avoid the unnecessary trouble of laziness.
- C. We Have One Master
- 1. Bosses and Employees have one master, and its the God who spoke the world into existence
 - 2. Serve HIM, by serving others.
 - 3. Serve HIM, by working hard
 - 4. Serve HIM, by challenging yourself
 - 5. Serve HIM, by embracing the adventure
 - 6. Serve HIM, when you are tired
 - 7. Serve HIM, when you rest
 - 8. Serve HIM, as you prepare
 - 9. Serve HIM, as you launch
 - 10. Serve HIM, as people commend you
 - 11. Serve HIM, as people challenge you
 - 12. Serve HIM, Honor HIM, Show those who are in your realm of influence that you are HIS!
- IV. Close