

## **Ephesians 6:5-9     Master And Slaves - Is God OK With Slavery? PART ONE**

**6/ 19/ 2022**

**Is God ok with slavery? The short answer is "NO!"** Some form of slavery has been around since the Fall of man. When men want to be god instead of human, rebelling against God's rule, then they want to be god over someone else. God's long redemptive path seeks to restore His original intent. But all things cannot be fixed so quickly. ( Why Not?)

Think of the people of whom God approved their faith, but who practiced polygamy and flippant divorce, and bad views toward women in the Old Testament. Laws were given to protect women under the Old Testament law. In Matthew 19, Jesus states there the original intent about marriage. (That is in deep contrast to other nations laws. Contrast the Babylonian Hammurabi Code, for instance, to the O.T. laws of Leviticus, Exodus, and Deuteronomy about slavery.)

**A lot of things are not right with the world.** God can wipe everybody out and start over, and He did ( Genesis chapter 6-9), yet the sin in man remained. God offers salvation in Christ, He is the only solution to sin, and will after that offer, one day, judge those who have refused to accept Christ.

**It is principles of Christianity that cut the root of slavery.** And next week we will look at that in detail.

When we accept Christ He enters into us and we enter into a new kingdom. Our life here, after that is lived by the power and principles of that new kingdom.

The new life in Christ has to express itself in daily living. He sustains us as we do so in this "fallen" world.

**Text: Ephesians 6:5-9/ Colossians 3: 22- 4:1 READ**

The key to all of these headship passages is **Ephesians 5: 21. "; and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ."**

We submit to authorities as Christians **because it has a higher goal** than its practical result of order, purpose, and discipline.

We do it because it pleases God, and really is all done for Him, not for the imperfect person who is in authority above you. You get continually rewarded for the attitude!

**This new life in Christ is in contradistinction to the world's attitude toward leadership and headship. Pride of position and an authoritarian spirit destroys God's intention for order.**

**It is clear he wants a "servant" leadership over all the areas of "submission."**

**Matthew 20: 17-28 READ** A new motive for leading and following.

**So this submission is:**

**A. Functional; and not about intrinsic worth.** God is no respecter of persons! Who you are and where you come from does not matter to Him! (Acts 10:28, 34-35/ Galatians 2:6-9)

**B. To be done for the Lord and not men.**

Ephesians 5:21- in reference to the Lord/ 5:22 as to the Lord/ 6:1 in the Lord

6:4 of the Lord/ 6: 5 as to Christ/ 6:4 slaves of Christ.

By the way, Paul, a born Romans citizen, relished in calling himself a "bond-servant" of Christ.

**I Corinthians 9:19 "For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I may win more."**

**Read Text Again: Ephesians 6: 5-9**

When we think of slavery we only think of the African slave trade in the British colonies in America. The first African slave arriving in Virginia in 1619 till the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863. That is the 244 years we think about.

(The Bible distinguishes people by nation and not race. In the Old Testament he wanted Israel to stay separate because of spiritual corruption. A foreigner could come into Israel's fold by accepting Israel's God.)

A good reference work on slavery and racism: Thomas Sowell- " Black Rednecks And White Liberals" – Especially chapter 3- " The Real History of slavery" (That is on -line now)

**Principles in The Bible that undercut the practice of slavery:**

**Final passages: I Timothy 6: 1-2/ I Peter 2: 18-25/ Titus 2: 9-10/ I Corinthians 7: 21-23**