

Series "Entrusted With The Truth"
"Honor In The Work Place"
1 Timothy 6:1-2
Study-15

Genesis 2:15; Gen 3:18-19 – (Difficulties in our labors; not easy)

1 Tim 6:1-2 – The Gospel Message of Salvation and Freedom in Christ appealed to the slaves, and many of them became believers.

Galatians 5:1

Galatians 3:28

"Spiritual Freedom in Christ does not annul our human responsibilities of honor and dutiful service in the workplace."

1. Verse 1 – Serving A Non-Christian Master

2. Verse 2 – Serving A Christian Master

1. Verse 1 – Serving A Non-Christian Master:

1 Timothy 6:1

1 Tim 5:6 – The Church and Its Ministry:

1 Tim 5:3-16 – Ministry To Widows – "Honor widows who are widows indeed"

1 Tim 5:17-25 – Ministry To Ministers – "worthy of double honor"

1 Tim 6:1-2 – Ministry To Slaves – "masters as worthy of all honor"

Eph. 6:5-9; Col. 3:22-4:1 – Responsibilities of both Slaves/Masters; Reciprocal

1 Tim 6:1-2; Titus 2:9-10; I Peter 2:18-25 – Responsibilities of Slaves only.

Slaves (KJV servants) Does not refer to free men; domestic workers but physical slaves. The Greek word "Doulos" 150X NT; "a slave used literal or figurative, involuntary or voluntary; sense of subjection or subservience, bond-man servant."

A Slave In The Physical Sense – During Paul's day there are estimates of 50-60,000,000 slaves in the Roman Empire. That is about 1/2 of the Roman Empire was made up of slaves. "Either you owned a slave or you were a slave."

A Slave In The Figurative Sense – Describes a servant of the Lord, office of a Deacon “a bond slave, a slave that lives to please his master, describes the relationship between the servant and his master.” Mark 10:44

“under the yoke as slaves” – Speaks of “submissive service, being under the authority of another.” Indicate a difficult situation. 2 Chron 10:4; Isa 9:4

Matthew 11:28-30

OT Did Not Forbid Slavery But Closely Guarded The Rights of Slaves. Ex 21:2; Ex 21:5-6

Abused slaves were set free – Ex 21:26-27 Civil Rights – Ex 21:20

1 Corinthians 7:20-24

1 Tim 6:2 – “Teach and preach these principles.”

“Spiritual Freedom in Christ does not annul our human responsibilities of honor and dutiful service in the workplace.”

The Command To Honor Is Addressed To All Slaves: “All who are under the yoke as slaves”

“regard” – “estimate based on objective criteria, to lead before the mind”; Our respect and honor is not based on an emotion or how we feel about someone.

Colossians 3:22

The Command Regards One’s Own Master: “their own masters.” This term (masters) the Greek word means “to bind” (in literal or figurative); be in bonds, knit, tie, wind”; It denotes a master’s “absolute ownership and uncontrolled power.”

Being master is ascribed to both God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Acts 4:24; 2 Peter 2:1; Jude 4; Rev. 6:10

The Command Deal’s With The Nature Of Respect: “as worthy of all honor”; Widows – 1 Tim 5:3 and Elders – 1 Tim 5:17

“worthy” – “to balance, to weigh, to be of the same”; The concept of worth comes from a recognition of authoritative headship within a culture or society.

“all honor” – “honor is an inner attitude of genuine respect for another which finds outward expression in word, manner, and conduct.”

1 Peter 2:18-20

Colossians 3:22-25

The Reason for the Command:

Paul gives 2 reasons for this respect:

Reason #1 – We Must Honor The Name Of God: “the name of God” may not be spoken against.

Romans 2:24

Acts 20:35

Luke 17:7-10

Reason #2 – We Honor The Program Of God: our doctrine may not be spoken against. This term refers to the instructions of the Scriptures.

Titus 2:9-10

2. Verse 2 – Serving A Christian Master:

1 Tim 6:2

Paul gives three reasons why Christian’s should show respect:

1. Believer Cannot Take Advantage Of Another Believer: “not be disrespectful to them because they are brethren, but let them serve them all the more,”

“disrespectful” – “to think down”; Christians are not to undervalue their believer boss.

Realization of equality in Christ must not become a cause of disrespect!

(Literally “Even more reason to work harder because we are of the faith”)

2. Believers Benefit From Other Believers: “because those who partake of the benefit”

Galatians 6:10

3. Believers Love God And Love God’s Family: “are believers and beloved.”

Philemon 1:16

Ephesians 6:5-8

Jesus washed the disciple's feet – John 13:14-15; 1 Corinthians 9:19

Application:

John MacArthur gave the following principles summarizing the conduct for believers on the job:

1. Believers Are To Serve Their Employers Obediently – Eph 6:5; Col 3:22
2. Believers Are To Serve Their Employers Completely – Eph 6:5; Col 3:22
3. Believers Are To Serve Their Employers Respectfully – Eph 6:5
4. Believers Are To Serve Their Employers Eagerly, Sincerity – Eph 6:5; Col 3:22
5. Believers Are To Serve Their Employers Excellently, As To Christ – Eph 6:5; Col 3:23
6. Believers Are To Serve Their Employers Diligently, Not By Way of Eye Service – Eph 6:6; Col 3:22
7. Believers Are To Serve Their Employers Humbly, Not As Men-Pleasers – Eph 6:6; Col 3:23
8. Believers Are To Serve Their Employers Spiritually, By the Will Of God From The Heart – Eph 6:6
9. Believers Are To Serve Their Employers By Faith, Lord Will Reward Us – Col 3:24-25