

Ephesians 6:5-9

EMC Wednesday Night Bible Study - 1-27-16

Context:

1. New Life in Christ (1:3-2:10)
2. The New Society (2:11-3:21)
3. New Standards - unity and purity (4:1-5:21)
4. **New Relationships** (5:21-6:24)

Duty of Slaves (vv. 5-8)

Concerning slavery in the ancient world

- It was a _____ of Mediterranean economic life
- Slaves were regarded more as _____ than persons
 - Aristotle: "A slave is a living tool...a kind of possession with a soul."
 - In Roman law:
 - No rights
 - *Pater familias* owned them
 - Stories of atrocities
- Paul: They were accepted _____ of the Christian community

Operating principle: They must discern the figure of their true master in heaven (v. 9) behind their earthly masters (v. 5).

- In each of the 4 verses addressed to slaves, Christ is mentioned
 - V. 5 - be "obedient...as to **Christ**"
 - V. 6 - behave as "slaves of **Christ**"
 - V. 7 - "render service as to the **Lord**"
 - V. 8 - knowing they will "receive back from the **Lord**"
- Christ-_____ of a slave's life

In their service, they would:

- Be _____ - "obey with fear and trembling" (v. 5; cf. Col. 3:22)
- Obey _____ - "in the sincerity of your heart" (v. 5)
- Be _____ - "not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers" (v. 6)
- Obey _____ - "from the heart...with good will" (vv. 6-7)

Duties of Masters (v. 9)

3 principles:

- "do the same things to them"
 - Sounds like the _____
- "give up threatening"
 - As parents are to give up "provoking", masters must give up threatening
 - Human relationships cannot be based on _____
- "knowing that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him"
 - Jesus Christ is master of all. This is the _____ for these requirements.
 - Position of authority ≠ position of superior value

Implications of the Gospel

Three aspects of the transformed relationship between slaves and masters:

- _____
 - Before God, masters and slaves are equal
 - Roman justice was discriminatory. Heavenly justice is not.

- _____
 - Cf. Col. 4:1
 - One's duty becomes the other's rights.

- _____
 - Cf. Philemon: receive back Onesimus "no longer as a slave, but more than a slave, a beloved brother" (v. 16)
 - Major theme of Ephesians: God's new society is the Father's household/family
 - In Christ we are all brothers and sisters
 - Cf. Galatians 3:26-29
 - A major challenge to the institution of slavery