

The Freedom of being a Slave of Christ!

July 16th & 17th, 2016

Ephesians 6:5-9

In Ephesians 5:21 through Ephesians 6:9, God's Word addresses our attitude toward those in authority.

- ❖ Sin is lawlessness! (*1 John 3:4*) Therefore we tend to resist authority, laws, rules, and any restriction to our personal freedom to make choices on our own. A change in attitude is needed!
- ❖ God's Word teaches us the importance of understanding His structure of authority and therefore addresses, in Ephesians, submission of spouses to one another, wives to husbands, husbands to God, children to parents, and slaves to their masters.

Slave: "A person who is wholly subject to the will of another; ..." ¹

- ❖ Scripture reveals that we are all slaves! We are slaves to sin by birth (*John 8:34; Ephesians 2:1-3*) and through Christ we are now free from sin and slaves to God.

📖 Romans 6:22

📖 1 Peter 2:13-17

"Freedom is not the right to do what we want, but what we ought." - Abraham Lincoln

Slavery in the Bible

- ❖ Most slavery originated from the spoils of war and the conquest of nations. *Judges 1:28-36*
- ❖ Slavery was either voluntary or involuntary.

Exodus 1:13 "So they ruthlessly made the people of Israel work as slaves"

↳ Israel was forced into slavery by the Egyptians.

Leviticus 25:39-43 "If your brother becomes poor beside you and sells himself to you,..."

↳ Hebrews could voluntarily submit to being a slave in order to pay off debts.

Exodus 21:2-6 "When you buy a Hebrew slave, he shall serve six years, and in the seventh he shall go out free, for nothing. ..."

↳ After 6 years, in the 7th year Hebrew slaves were to be set free unless the individual decided to stay and serve his master.

Exodus 21:16 "Whoever steals a man and sells him, and anyone found in possession of him, shall be put to death."

↳ To steal a man and sell him resulted in death!

1 Timothy 1:10 "the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine,"

↳ The New Testament condemns the selling of people into slavery!

Leviticus 25:44-46

"The emphasis upon humanitarianism and social justice is a pronounced feature of the legislation in this chapter..." ²

📖 *Galatians 3:26-29*

📖 *Philemon 16*

↳ Christians are now free to serve God and fulfill His purposes regardless of our occupation.

Romans 6:22 "But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life"!

Endnotes:

¹ Webster, Noah. *American Dictionary of the English Language (1828 Facsimile Edition)*. San Francisco: Foundation for American Christian Education, 1989.

² Harrison, R.K. *Leviticus*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1981. (Tyndale New Testament Commentaries)

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