

SERVANT-MASTER RELATIONSHIPS
(Ephesians 6:5-9)

I. Background Observations

A. The NT recognizes the EXISTENCE of SLAVERY as a socio-economic institution

1. It does not CONDONE it
2. It does not CONDEMN it

B. OT Israel practiced SLAVERY in three cases

1. PRISONERS of WAR—rare and unsanctioned
2. DEBTORS and/or THIEVES
3. VOLUNTARY for a specified PURPOSE and PERIOD

C. Christianity leads to FREEING slaves and JUST treatment

II. Exhortations to SERVANTS/EMPLOYEES (Eph. 6:5-8)

A. Concerning OBEDIENCE (6:5-7)

1. Demands CONSTANT obedience
2. They are your “MASTERS according to the FLESH”
 - a. Authority is MATERIAL and earth-bound
 - b. You remain spiritually FREE
3. With SERIOUSNESS and ENERGY

4. In SINCERITY of heart
5. As to CHRIST (v. 5; cf. vv. 6, 7)
6. Not for APPEARANCE sake, but with sincere GOOD WILL

B. Concerning ENCOURAGEMENT (6:8)—REWARDS from the LORD for GOOD things done

III. Exhortation to MASTERS/ EMPLOYERS (Eph. 6:9)

A. Not “render the SAME SERVICE”

B. But “treat with the same CONSIDERATION“

1. Forsaking THREATENING
2. Remembering ACCOUNTABILITY

IV. Conclusions

A. God will reward EMPLOYERS who treat their EMPLOYEES as if they were Christ

B. God will reward EMPLOYEES who treat their EMPLOYERS as if they were Christ

C. The POWER of the Holy Spirit within will help each OVERLOOK PERSONALITIES

1. The Spirit-filled employee will be joyful, thankful, SUBMISSIVE, and HARD WORKING
2. The Spirit-filled employer will be joyful, thankful, HUMBLE, and GENEROUS