

# Christian Slaves and Masters

1 Tim 6:1-2

# Applying NT Passages on Slaves to Employer/Employee Relationships

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- In spite of the unjust nature of their service Christian slaves were to serve their masters as if they were serving Christ
- Modern employment is usually at-will, with limited demands, and recourse if any injustice occurs
- If the Roman slave was to give respect and honor to their unjust masters, should the modern Christian employee offer anything less, when they have voluntarily agreed to all the terms of their employment?

# **1 Timothy 6:1–2 (ESV)**

**1** Let all who are under a yoke as bondservants regard their own masters as worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and the teaching may not be reviled.

## Titus 2:9–10 (ESV)

**9** Bondservants are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, **10** not pilfering, but showing all good faith, so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.

## Ephesians 6:5–10 (ESV)

**5** Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, **6** not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, **7** rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, **8** knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free.

## Colossians 3:22–4:1 (ESV)

**22** Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. **23** Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, **24** knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. **25** For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.

# Slaves – Dos

- Treat master as worthy of all honor
- Be submissive
- Be well pleasing
- Show all good faith
- Obey with fear and trembling
- Serve with sincerity
- Serve as to Christ
- Serve as bondservants to Christ
- Serve with good will
- Fear the Lord
- Work heartily

# Slaves – Don'ts

- Be argumentative
- Pilfer
- Give eye-service
- Serve as a people-pleaser

# Reasons

- So God's name will not be reviled
- So the teaching will not be reviled
- To adorn the doctrine of God our Savior
- God repays our good deeds
- To receive an inheritance from the Lord as our reward
- You are serving the Lord Christ
- The wrongdoer will be repaid without partiality

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# Masters – Dos, Don'ts & Reasons

- DO act toward them the same way as they are to act toward you
- DO treat them justly and fairly
- DON'T threaten
- BECAUSE you and your slave have the same Master in heaven
- BECAUSE that Master shows no partiality

# Certain Types of Masters

- Christian masters

# 1 Timothy 6:1–2 (ESV)

**1** Let all who are under a yoke as bondservants regard their own masters as worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and the teaching may not be reviled. **2** Those who have believing masters must not be disrespectful on the ground that they are brothers; rather they must serve all the better since those who benefit by their good service are believers and beloved. Teach and urge these things.

# Certain Types of Masters

- Christian masters
- Unjust masters

# 1 Peter 2:16–25 (ESV)

**16** Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. **17** Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor. **18** Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. **19** For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. **20** For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God

# 1 Peter 2:16–25 (ESV)

**21** For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. **22** He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. **23** When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. **24** He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. **25** For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

## Romans 6:19–23 (ESV)

**19** I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification. **20** For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. **21** But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. **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. **23** For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## Matthew 11:28–30 (ESV)

**28** Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. **29** Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **30** For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

## Romans 6:1–6 (ESV)

**1** What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? **2** By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? **3** Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? **4** We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. **5** For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. **6** We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.

## Galatians 3:26–28 (ESV)

**26** for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. **27** For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. **28** There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.