

Sermon Notes
Themes from Ephesians
“Slaves & Masters” Ephesians 6:5-9

I. Introduction.

A. Paul is dealing with slaves and masters.

1. Slaving was part of the social fabric present in the Roman Empire.

B. Paul’s discussion.

1. Does not condemn, but did not condone either.
2. His discussion is part of the broader topic of authority and submission which began in Ephesians 5:22ff.
3. Uniqueness of Paul’s remarks.
 - a. Slaves are not things.

C. Text: Ephesians 6:5-9

II. Exposition.

A. Verses 6:5-8

1. Consider the hearts of employees.
2. Five particular points (noted by James Boice and others.)
 - a. Obedience, verse 5.
 - b. Respect, verse 5.
 - c. Sincerity, verse 5.

d. Loyalty, verse 6.

e. Goodwill, verse 7.

3. Reward, verse 8.

a. Outside of their world.

b. John MacArthur.

B. Ephesians 6:9

1. Paul turns toward the employer.

2. Same admonition applies.

a. Obey God and respect subordinates.

b. Sincerity.

c. Loyalty.

d. Goodwill.

III. Points for Reflection

A. If Paul’s words were acted upon there would never be a need for unions, strikes, or picket lines.

B. Employers – You are responsible to God for how you direct, treat, and pay your employees.

C. Employees – Work diligently for your supervisor knowing that ultimately you are serving Christ in your work of service.

D. It is God’s design to maintain a chain of command through the exercise of authority in all spheres of life.