

***“Living by Faith in the
Workplace”***

Ephesians 6:5-9

February 1, 2009

Ephesians 5:18-21

“And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.”

The Point Is...

As we turn our attention to life in the work place for the next couple of weeks we're essentially talking about worship.

About Slaves & Masters

1. When Paul addressed “slaves” he was addressing slaves!

John Calvin Said...

“The *servants* whom he immediately addresses were not hired servants, like those of the present day, but *slaves*, such as were in ancient times, whose *slavery* was perpetual, unless, through the favor of their masters, they obtained freedom, -- whom their masters bought with money, that they might impose upon them the most degrading employments, and might, with the full protection of the law, exercise over them the power of life and death. To such he says, *obey your masters*, lest they should vainly imagine that carnal freedom had been procured for them by the gospel.”

About Slaves & Masters

1. When Paul addressed “slaves” he was addressing slaves!
2. However, the slavery alluded to in the Bible was not the same as African or chattel slavery.
3. The Bible neither condones nor promotes slavery.

“Employees & Employers”

The reason I think it's justified for us to read these verses as referring to 'employees and employers' is not because slave and master relationships were like this in the ancient world, but because this is the reality of our cultural situation and I think Paul would have us capitalize on that reality.

The Dominating Reality

The dominating reality to which Paul wants to point us is that our true Master is Christ and in reality we work for him and thus we will receive our just reward from him!

1.He wants us to see the evangelistic potential of the work place (Titus 2:9-10).

2.He wants us to put our hope in the right things.

The Specific Command

Paul simply commands all slaves to obey their masters, or in our cultural context, all workers to obey their bosses.

1. Obey them with “fear & trembling” (2 Cor. 7:15 & Phil. 2:12-13).

2. Obey them with “sincerity of heart.”

3. Obey them with “a good will” or “wholehearted zeal” or “a good attitude.”

The Warning

The warning is simple: don't be a people-pleaser because this shows that you have ulterior motives and that you're not hoping in Christ alone.

So, Christians, believe and live in light of that belief!