

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SERVANTS AND THEIR MASTERS – 1 TIMOTHY 6:1-2

Today we enter into a passage of scripture that seems to us out of place. With the eradication of _____ and bondage in the western world and the discomfort of our country's past history, this text seems difficult to apply, much less discuss. Therefore, most contemporary Bible teachers relate this solely to employers and employees. While there are practical applications in that regard, this plain truth also stands the test of time both historically and doctrinally. It is calculated that more than half the earth's population at the time of writing were under the Roman yoke as slaves. Slavery and indentured servantry was a vital part of ancient life. Many servants received Christ while their _____ remained lost—in this case they may be inclined to disobey or to escape seeking freedom. Other saved servants having Christian masters may be tempted to take advantage of them. Paul wrote to address these issues within the local church at Ephesus in 65 AD.

Even today there remain places and circumstances where servanthood is still prevalent. Communism, Socialism, Nazism, Fascism, Feudalism, even Monarchies and Democracies _____ their citizens to public policy and control. Revelation 18 prophesies a future time when the lost world will lament the destruction of the great revived city called Babylon—their mourning includes the abolishment of slavery. Therefore, this issue is and _____ has been a factor in human life and government. Yet, the scriptures are clear in stating that the highest honour of all people is to be _____ and controlled by the Lord Jesus Christ. Our text today magnifies this entire issue giving us easily understood doctrines and practices.

1. The difference between a slave and a _____

a. Slave

- The word is used only twice in the Bible – Jer. 2:14; Rev. 18:13
Each time the word is applied it is in a negative, evil, and _____ context
- The Bible uses the term *menstealers* and describes it as sin and even a crime worthy of death – 1 Ti. 1:10; Ex. 21:16
- Slavery in the western world and early America was perpetrated by _____ peoples from other lands and selling them to the highest bidder, who would then take permanent ownership of them and their family members. According to scripture, this was an evil sinful practice. It was ultimately abolished!
- Stealing humans is still practiced today:
 - Child and adult sex trafficking
 - Forced child labor
 - Forced governmental, domestic or corporate servitude
 - Forced marriage of a female to an unwanted husband

Unlawful recruitment of child and adult soldiers
Kidnapping and holding in bondage for nefarious purposes
Taking hostages for torture, abuse, extortion, and ransom, etc.

- This is evil and should be met with the capital _____ of the perpetrators

b. Servant

- This word is used _____ times throughout scripture
Represented as being lawful, with few exceptions
- While menstealing is wrong, _____ a servant for a set time in the OT was not – Ex. 21:2
When their service time was ended some servants, who loved their masters, willingly gave themselves over for the rest of their lives. A hole was bored in their ear demonstrating their voluntary service – Ex. 21:5-6
- Indentured servanthood is still practiced in some cultures today
Cheap labor where both the master and servant willing agree
Willingly agreed as a means to pay off a large debt
Although not necessarily considered servanthood, there are still couples arranged in marriage for any number of reasons, with both parties willing
- The Bible does _____ forbid servantry but rather it regulates it with just rules – Ex. 21:1-6; Eph. 6:5-6; Col. 4:1; 1 Ti. 6:1-2
Saved servants are called to serve their masters heartily as unto the Lord
Saved masters are to treat their servants as they want the Lord to treat them – Eph. 6:9; Col. 4:1

2. The instructions to a servant – 1 Timothy 6:1-2

a. Servants under the yoke to *unbelieving* masters – verse 1

- Count their _____ masters worthy of all honour

b. Servants under the yoke to *believing* masters – verse 2

- Let them not despise them
- They are brethren, faithful and beloved, partakers of the benefit
- Do them service

c. This is extremely important – verses 1b, 2c

- These things teach and exhort

For practical personal and civil order

That the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed – Eph. 6:5-8; Col. 3:22

3. Believers are _____ of the _____ Jesus Christ

a. He is our Lord and _____ – Mt. 7:21-29; 23:10; Lk. 6:46; Jo. 13:13; Ro. 14:8-9; Phil. 3:8

b. He is our owner – 1 Cor. 6:19-20; 7:23; 1 Peter 1:18-19; 2 Peter 2:1

c. Our servitude is _____, therefore, we should do over and above whatever he requires –
Lk. 17:1-10

In the process of serving this way our _____ will increase

These too are all things we must teach and exhort so that the name of God and his doctrine be not
blasphemed