

# THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

PAUL'S PRISON EPISTLE TO THE EPHESIANS

## CHAPTER 6:5-9

TAPE # WN 246 ~ DATE: May 13, 1998

### TITLE:

“Ethics and the Will of God”

SEATED IN THE HEAVENLIES IN CHRIST JESUS

### SUB-TITLE:

“The Growing Up” of a Healthy Church

### THEME:

**Ephesians 1:3**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

Introduction: The Reading of the Text

vv. 5-9

*The definition of ethics*

ethic(s) is the

*Why are ethics important*

- Because they defend and promote the common good of all
  - Because they safeguard the individual
  - They gender value and respect for others
- They develop a moral responsibility for the things of the this world

The American Ethic

&

The Ethical Code

Ethics and the Will of God

# This section began in chapter 5:18 - 6:9

The need for being filled with the Holy spirit, (spirit-filled)

## *Being spirit-filled controls our life*

- Giving power
- Creating a witness
- Influencing other toward Christ

## *Being spirit-filled controls our private lives*

vv. 21

The Definite Article in the Greek precedes the  
noun or pronoun

vv. 22 THE wives

vv. 25 THE husbands

vv. 6:1 THE children

vv. 6:4 THE fathers

vv. 6:5 THE servants

vv. 6:9 THE masters

*The Christian is Called Upon to live a spirit-filled Life  
in all (3) aspects of the World around us...*

IN married life  
IN family relationships  
IN public vocation

# SUBMISSION IS THE KEY

## Employers & employees

### Masters & slaves

#### #1 How should employees respond to the authority over em

Godly Ethics Demand  
that we respond as slaves to those for whom we work for

#### #2 How should employers respond to those under them

##### **Ephesians 6:5-9**

Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; <sup>6</sup> not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, <sup>7</sup> with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, <sup>8</sup> knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free. <sup>9</sup> And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

How we do what we do with what attitude

How we live for Jesus before the world

Are we spirit-filled at work???

#### #1 How should employees respond to the authority over em

**SLAVERY  
THEN AND NOW**

In the roman culture, many of the slaves were known barbarians

The early church was either made up of Jewish Brothers  
or barbarian slaves

Having absolutely no rights at all  
talking back to a master was punishable by death

**Verse 5**

**Bondservants**, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ;

**Verse 5a**

**Bondservants** GRK "doulos"

Paul called himself a doulos

James called himself a doulos

Peter called himself a doulos

Jesus referred to all those who would follow him as...

**DOULOS'**

**WHO WE REALLY ARE  
SLAVES - BONDSERVANTS**

Bible teaches' that  
CHRISTIANS HAVE NO RIGHTS TO THEIR OWN LIVES

**1 Corinthians 6:20**

For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

**1 Corinthians 7:22-23**

For he who is called in the Lord while a slave is the Lord's freedman. Likewise he who is called while free is Christ's slave. <sup>23</sup> You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men.

OBEYING CHRIST - - NO QUESTIONS ASKED !!!

**John 13:13**

"You call me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am.

# Slaves report for duty

**Matthew 10:16**

"Behold, I send you forth (a command) as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.

## The relationship of slaves & masters then

Total obedience to them - to the point of death if called upon

### Verse 5b

be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh

**Be obedient**

**GRK 5219 hupakouo (hoop-ak-oo'-o);**

to hear from below, listening while being under (as a subordinate), to listen under authority

## Masters according to the flesh

(earthly lords)

*Christian or not - upon this earth...*

### Example

**Matthew 8:8-9**

The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. <sup>9</sup> "For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

A continuous obedience  
in whatever situation you were in

## **THIS WASN'T POPULAR THEN and IT ISN'T NOW**

When a Slave went to church in the early times  
they were instructed to SUBMIT to their masters

4 - Important things to remember about HOW to  
submit to authority

### **#1 - Being Sensitive to God's will**

So that you can submit to your boss...

**with fear and trembling**

## The How...

### Verse 5c

with **fear** and **trembling**, in **sincerity** of heart, as to Christ;

**Fear** GRK 5401 **phobos (fob'-os)**;  
(to be put in fear); **alarm or fright**:  
be afraid, + exceedingly, fear, terror.

**Trembling** GRK 5156 **tromos (trom'-os)**;  
i.e. **quaking** with fear: to shake

**1 Timothy 6:1-2**

Let as many bondservants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and His doctrine may not be blasphemed. <sup>2</sup> And those who have believing masters, let them not despise them because they are brethren, but rather serve them because those who are benefited are believers and beloved - fellow Christians !!!.

## 4 - Important things to remember about HOW to submit to authority

### #2 - with sincerity of heart

with **sincerity** of heart, as to Christ;

**Sincerity** GRK 572 haplotēs (hap-lot'-ace);  
singleness, solo, alone = generosity, with nothing attached

## Without a double motive

**Titus 2:9-11**

Exhort bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all things, not answering back, <sup>10</sup> not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things. <sup>11</sup> For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men,

Jesus is Lord  
and so is your boss according to the flesh

**We will not be responsible for the company's success.  
We are simply called to make it a successful company.**

**Colossians 3:22-24**

Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. <sup>23</sup> And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, <sup>24</sup> knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

## 4 - Important things to remember about HOW to submit to authority

### #3 - With service dedicated to Christ

#### 1 Corinthian 10:31

Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

## NOT BEING A CLOCK WATCHER

### Verse 6-7

not with **eyeservice**, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God **from the heart**, 7with good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men,

**Eyeservice** GRK 3787 **ophthalmodouleia** (of-thal-mod-oo-li'-)  
labor performed while being watched, i.e. that needs watching

## As men-pleasers

### Lazy-labor

## CLOCK WATCHER

## BOSS WATCHER

#### 1 Peter 2:15-19

For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men--<sup>16</sup> as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God.<sup>17</sup> Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.<sup>18</sup> Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh.<sup>19</sup> For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully.

## 4 - Important things to remember about HOW to submit to authority

#4 - with satisfaction in the Lord for all that you do...

### Verse 8

knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free.

**Are you working for a paycheck?**

# There's much more

## Be content with what you're paid

**John The Baptist**

**Luke 3:14**

Likewise the soldiers asked him, saying, "And what shall we do?" So he said to them, "Do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely, and be content with your wages."

**When you get a rise**

**BLESS GOD OVER IT**

***THE BAXTER EXAMPLE***

**John 6:27**

"Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him."

**Hebrews 6:10**

For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

## #2 How should employers respond to those under them

And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up **threatening**, knowing that your own **Master** also is in heaven, and there is no partiality (level of merit - blue collar or white) with Him.