

Employers and Employees

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Ephesians 6:5-9.

B. This text concerns employee/employer relationship as extended from a discussion on Roman slavery.

II. Slaves and masters were equal in Christ, so the relationship between them in normal affairs was in question.

A. In a sense, we are slaves to those whom we sell our time, so our conduct is the same as the question toward slaves and masters back in Paul's day.

B. Strife is always evidence of a failure of the fundamental order.

C. The overall key is to be subject to one another out of fear for Christ.

III. Paul deals with an activity, an attitude and a principle with the employees.

A. The activity required of the employees: obedience.

1. What is not spoken of is rebellion.

2. What is spoken of is slavery in no context of revolt.

3. Nevertheless, slavery has been largely eliminated through Christianity by the principle of faith.

B. The attitudes required from the employee.

1. Fear and trembling.

2. With a single mind toward pleasing the Lord.

a. There will never be a dull day if you serve the Lord in everything.

b. A sign of failure in this is "eye-service" (working only when the boss is looking) and man pleasing.

c. A person is saved from this by doing the will of God.

C. The principle is knowing that whatever good is done will be returned by the Lord no matter the condition.

IV. Paul deals with an activity, an attitude and a principle with the employers.

A. The activity: do the same to the employees.

1. This is to hear employees.

2. This is to consider concerns and make them right.

3. The employees are to be treated justly and fairly.

B. The attitude cannot be one of threatening.

C. The principle is that we have a hidden Master in heaven keeping us accountable.

Application questions:

1. What principles are suggested to employees and employers in their relationship?

2. What attitude is essential in employee/employer relations and not just actions?

3. How have you failed to hold up these principles in your employer/employee relationship? How will you act differently in the future? Explain.
