

SPIRIT-FILLED SLAVERY?

Ephesians 6:5-9

I. Is Paul condoning slavery?

- A. Consider his lack of biblical/theological support for the institution.
- B. Consider his focus upon the individual, not the institution.
- C. Consider his wider writing related to the institution.

II. Why doesn't Paul condemn slavery?

- A. Consider his culture wherein slavery was quite different the modern slave-trade.
- B. Consider his commission, not to political reform, but gospel proclamation.

III. How could the Spirit bless slavery?

- A. Consider that He does not sanctify the institution itself.
- B. Consider that He sanctifies those within the institution.

IV. How does Paul's exhortation to slaves and masters apply to us today?

- A. Consider its comprehensive application.
- B. Consider its consummate application.

QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY WORSHIP

1. Was Paul promoting slavery here? Why, or why not? How do his other letters help us to understand his view on slavery as an institution?
2. What was Paul's calling as an apostle? Why is that significant to remember when we come to texts regarding societal injustice?
3. How does the Spirit transform the slave-master relationship? How does this transformation deal a death blow to slavery itself?
4. Who is the Master of both slaves and masters? Who is their Judge?
5. How does Paul's teaching here apply to Christians today?

QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE REFLECTION

1. Am I willing to ask the difficult questions about what the Bible teaches and willing to go wherever the Bible leads?
2. Am I a man-pleaser or a Christ-pleaser? How can I cultivate a reverential fear of Christ?
3. Does the reality of Christ's future judgment have any practical bearing in my life? Why, or why not?