



Serve all the Better
1 Timothy 6:1-2a
June 6, 2021
Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this text we see God's perspective on living and serving as Christians in a fallen world and social order.

The Text: 1 Timothy 6:1-2a

¹ Let all who are under a yoke as bondservants [slaves] regard their own masters as worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and the teaching may not be reviled. ² Those who have believing masters must not be disrespectful on the ground that they are brothers; rather they must serve all the better since those who benefit by their good service are believers and beloved.

- 1) Paul's instructions to slaves needs to be placed in its historical context.

- 2) Does the Bible and the Christian faith rebuke slavery and do enough to fight it?

- 3) Paul's commands in these verses reveal three truths for slaves and about slavery.
 - a) Paul describes slavery as a "yoke," by which he sees it as both negative and oppressive (v. 1a).

 - b) Christian slaves are to honor their human masters as to Lord and as a witness to the gospel (v. 1b).

 - c) Christian slaves are to treat a Christian master with not less but more respect, since they have the added command to love one another (v. 2a).

Philippians 2:3-8: ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a slave, ... he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Response:

Lord, break us of our enslavement to self so that we may serve others all the better!

Sunday Text Questions for 1 Timothy 6:1-2a (“Entrusted to You” Series)

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- 1) Starter Question: How has slavery been definitive in the history of the United States?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) How does Paul’s description of slavery as “a yoke” give insight into God’s view of slavery?
- 4) What other insights does the Bible give that reveals God’s perspective on slavery (cf. Exod 21:16; Col 4:1; 1 Pet 2:13-20)?
- 5) What reasons in v. 1 does Paul give for commanding slaves to show “honor” to their masters?
- 6) How does v. 2 address the issues that might come about when both a slave and a master are Christians?
- 7) Read Philippians 2:3-8. How does the fact that Jesus took “the form of a slave” give insight into how we should think about serving and sacrificing?
- 8) Paul regularly called himself “a slave of Christ.” How does the Bible make becoming a slave, not a master, the goal of the Christian life?
- 9) In contrast to becoming a slave of Christ, how are you tempted to make your personal freedom, rights, and happiness the controlling factor in your daily decisions?
- 10) Who in your life is difficult to love or serve, and how does this passage encourage you to adjust your attitude or actions?

Further study this week: Passages on slavery: Exodus 21:16 (Mon); Colossians 4:1 (Tues); Ephesians 6:5-9 (Wed); Galatians 5:1 (Thurs); 1 Peter 2:13-25 (Fri).