

Workers in Christ - Ephesians 6:5-9

Topics:

Bondservants, Jesus Christ, Lord, Obedience, Respect, Rewards, Serving, Sincerity, Slavery, Work

Open It Questions

1. If you were a supervisor or manager or team leader, how would you get those you supervise to be more productive.

2. As an employee or team member, do you work hard only when the boss is around? **Explain**

- 2a. How do you treat the people who service your car, check out/carry out your groceries, take your order at a restaurant, collect your trash, deliver your mail, etc.?

Explore It Questions

3. Why did Paul tell bondservants to obey their masters "with fear and trembling"? (6:5)

4. What did Paul tell bondservants to do? (6:5-8)

5. What responsibilities did bondservants have to their masters? (6:5-8)

6. How did Paul transform the work of the bondservant? (6:5-8)

7. How could bondservants serve the Lord while working for their masters? (6:5-8)

8. How would bondservants benefit from winning the favor of their masters? (6:5-6)

9. With what attitude should the bondservant serve his master? (6:7)

10. What reward for Christian service could the bondservant expect? (6:7-8)

11. What directives did Paul give to Masters? (6:9)

12. Why did Paul warn Masters against abusing their bondservants? (6:9)

13. How does God view rank or social status? (6:9)

Get It Questions

14. Why did Paul call bondservants to obey and not to revolt against the system of slavery?

15. How were Paul’s instructions helpful and protective to both bondservant and the Master?

16. How did Paul’s words to bondservants and masters relate to the teaching in the rest of his letter to the Ephesians?

17. How do we enslave certain groups in our society?

18. How does God want us to treat people who are subordinate to us?

19. How does God want us to treat people who are over us?

20. How does God want us to treat all people with whom we work?

21. When should Christians work for social justice?

22. What importance do you attach to rank or social status?

23. What importance should we attach to rank or social status?

Apply It Questions

24. How can you improve your attitude toward someone you work with?

25. How can you remember to serve all people wholeedly, as if you were serving the Lord?

Adult Questions for LESSON Maker.

Ephesians
WORKERS IN CHRIST

Letter to the Ephesians
Ephesians 6:5-9

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Workers in Christ
Topics

Ephesians 6:5-9
(NKJV)

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Bondservant
 Jesus Christ
 Lord
 Obedience

Workers in Christ
Ephesians 6:5-9
Topics

Respect
 Rewards
 Serving
 Sincerity
 Slavery
 Work

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Workers in Christ

Open It Questions


Ephesians 6:5-9
(NKJV)

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Workers in Christ
Ephesians 6:5-9
Open It Questions

1. If you were a supervisor or manager or team leader, how would you get those you supervise to be more productive.




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Workers in Christ
Ephesians 6:5-9
Open It Questions

2. As an employee or team member, do you work hard only when the boss is around?
Explain




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**Workers in Christ
Ephesians 6:5-9
Open It Questions**

2a. How do you treat the people who service your car, check out /carry out your groceries, take your order at a restaurant, collect your trash, deliver your mail, etc.?



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Workers in Christ

Scripture Reading

**Ephesians 6:5-9
(NKJV)**

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**Workers in Christ
Ephesians 6:5-9 (NKJV)
Scripture Reading**

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;

⁶ not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart,

⁷ with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men,

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Workers in Christ
Ephesians 6:5-9 (NKJV)
Scripture Reading

⁸ knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether *he is* a slave or free.

⁹ 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.

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Workers in Christ

Ephesians 6:5-9

Introduction

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Workers in Christ
Ephesians 6:5-9 (NKJV)
Introduction

Slaves played a significant part in this society as well as in most societies of that day. No ancient government ever considered abolishing slavery as it was such an instrumental part of the Mediterranean *economy*. There were several million slaves in the Roman Empire at this time.

[about 60,000,000 slaves according to the Daily Study Bible]

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Workers in Christ
Ephesians 6:5-9 (NKJV)
Introduction

People could become slaves (or bondservants) in several ways:

- by being born to a woman who was a slave,
- by being made a slave as punishment for a crime,
- by being kidnapped from another land, and
- by being conquered by another nation

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Workers in Christ
Ephesians 6:5-9 (NKJV)
Introduction

- Sometimes, however, parents would sell their children into slavery.
- And some would voluntarily become slaves in order to pay a debt.

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Workers in Christ
Ephesians 6:5-9 (NKJV)
Introduction

Usually those with financial means owned slaves. Slave owners had absolute power over their slaves. Because many slaves and owners had become Christians, the early church had to deal straightforwardly with the question of master/slave relations.

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Workers in Christ
Ephesians 6:5-9 (NKJV)
Introduction

Masters and bondservants had to learn how to live together in Christian households. They were to be treated equally in the church. In Paul's day, women, children, and slaves had few rights. In the church, however, they had freedoms that society denied them.

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Workers in Christ


Explore It Questions

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Ephesians 6:5-9

17

Workers in Christ
Ephesians 6:5 (NKJV)
Obey With Fear and Trembling




3. Why did Paul tell bondservants to *obey* their masters "with *fear and trembling*." ([6:5](#) (KJV/NKJV))

[“*respect and fear*” NIV/NLT]

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Workers in Christ
Ephesians 6:5
Obey With Fear and Trembling




“Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ;”
(6:5 NKJV)

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Workers in Christ
Ephesians 6:5-8
Instructions for Bondservants




4. What did Paul tell bondservants to do? [\(6:5-8\)](#)

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Workers in Christ
Ephesians 6:5-8
Instructions for Bondservants



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; ⁶ not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, ⁷ with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, ⁸ knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether *he is* a slave or free. (6:5-8)

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**Workers in Christ
Ephesians 6:5-8 (NKJV)
Responsibilities of Bondservants**

5. What responsibilities did bondservants have to their masters? ([6:5-8](#))

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**Workers in Christ
Ephesians 6:5-8
Responsibilities of Bondservants**

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; ⁶ not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, ⁷ with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, ⁸ knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether *he is* a slave or free. (**6:5-8**)

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**Workers in Christ
Ephesians 6:5-8
Bondservants' Work Transformed by Paul**


6. How did Paul transform the work of the bondservants? ([6:5-8](#))

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Workers in Christ
Ephesians 6:5-8

Bondservants' Work Transformed by Paul




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; ⁶ not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, ⁷ with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, ⁸ knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether *he is* a slave or free. **(6:5-8 NKJV)**

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Workers in Christ
Ephesians 6:5-8

Bondservants' Serve the Lord




7. How could bondservants serve the Lord while working for their masters? (6:5-8)

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Workers in Christ
Ephesians 6:5-8

Bondservants' Serve the Lord




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; ⁶ not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, ⁷ with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, ⁸ knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether *he is* a slave or free. **(6:5-8 NKJV)**

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Workers in Christ
Ephesians 6:5-6
Favor of Masters Benefits Bondservants




8. How would bondservants benefit from winning the favor of their masters? (6:5-6)

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Workers in Christ
Ephesians 6:5-6
Favor of Masters Benefits Bondservants




“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; ⁶ not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart...” (6:5-6 NKJV)

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Workers in Christ
Ephesians 6:7
The Bondservant's Attitude




9. With what attitude should the bondservant serve his master? (6:7)

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Workers in Christ
Ephesians 6:7
The Bondservant's Attitude




“...with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men,” (6:7 NKJV)

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Workers in Christ
Ephesians 6:7-8
The Bondservant's Reward




10. What reward for Christian service could the bondservant expect? (6:7-8)

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Workers in Christ
Ephesians 6:7-8
The Bondservant's Reward




“7...with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men,”
 “8...knowing that whatever “good” anyone does, he will receive the same [“good”] from the Lord, whether *he is* a bond-servant or free.” (6:7-8 NKJV)

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**Workers in Christ
Ephesians 6:9
Paul's Directives to Masters**




11. What directives did Paul give Masters? ([6:9](#))

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**Workers in Christ
Ephesians 6:9
Paul's Directives to Masters**




“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 ” ([6:9 NKJV](#)).

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**Workers in Christ
Ephesians 6:9
Paul's Warning to Masters**




12. Why did Paul warn Masters against abusing their bond-servants? ([6:9](#))

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Workers in Christ
Ephesians 6:9
Paul's Warning to Masters




“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” (6:9 NKJV).

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Workers in Christ
Ephesians 6:9
God's View of Rank or Social Status




13. How does God view rank or social status? (6:9)

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Workers in Christ
Ephesians 6:9
God's View of Rank or Social Status



“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” (6:9 NKJV).

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Workers in Christ

Get It Questions

#14-23

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Ephesians 6:5-9

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Workers in Christ

Ephesians 6:5-9

Get it Questions



14. Why did Paul call bondservants to obey and not to revolt against the system of slavery?

15. How were Paul's instructions helpful and protective to both bondservant and Master?

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Workers in Christ

Ephesians 6:5-9

Get it Questions



16. How did Paul's words to bondservants and masters relate to the teaching in the rest of his letter to the Ephesians?


17. How do we enslave certain groups in our society?

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Workers in Christ
Ephesians 6:5-9
Get it Questions




18. How does God want us to treat people who are subordinate to us?

19. How does God want us to treat people who are over us?

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Workers in Christ
Ephesians 6:5-9
Get it Questions




20. How does God want us to treat all people with whom we work?

21. When should Christians work for social justice?

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Workers in Christ
Ephesians 6:5-9
Get it Questions




22. What importance do you attach to rank or social status?

23. What importance should we attach to rank or social status?

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Workers in Christ

Apply It Questions #24-25

Ephesians 6:5-9


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Workers in Christ

Ephesians 6:5-9

Apply it Questions




24. How can you improve your attitude toward someone you work with?

25. How can you remember to serve all people wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord?

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Put on the full armor of God

so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

Next Week's Lesson

Ephesians 6:10-24

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EPHESIANS 6:5-9
TERMS AND DEFINITIONS
(King James Version Dictionary)

Bondservant, *n.* *bond and servant.* A slave; one who is subjected to the authority of another, or whose person and liberty are restrained. (Also see Slavery below)

Christ, THE ANOINTED; an appellation given to the Savior of the World, and synonymous with the Hebrew Messiah. It was a custom of antiquity to consecrate persons to the sacerdotal and regal offices by anointing them with oil.

Jesus, A prophet of the first century of our era; to Christians (see also Christian), **Jesus Christ**, the son of God, a person who was both God and man, the Messiah sent by God to save the human race from the sin it inherited through the Fall of Man. The story of the birth of **Jesus** in Bethlehem is called the Nativity.

Lord, *n.* A master; a person possessing supreme power and authority; a ruler; a governor.

In scripture, the Supreme Being; Jehovah. When Lord is used in the Old Testament, it is printed in capitals, it is the translation of JEHOVAH (YHWH). The word is applied to Christ, Ps. 110. Col. 3. and to the Holy Spirit, 2Thess. 3. As a title of respect, it is applied to kings, Gen. 40. 2, Sam. 19, to princes and nobles, Gen 42. Dan. 4., and to a husband, Gen. 18, to a prophet in 1 Kings 18, and 2 Kings 2, to a respectable person, Gen. 24. Christ is called the Lord of glory, 1 Cor. 2, and Lord of lords, Rev. 19.

Obedience, *n.* Compliance with a command, prohibition or known law and rule of duty prescribed; the performance of what is required or enjoined by authority, or the abstaining from what is prohibited, in compliance with the command or prohibition. To constitute obedience, the act or forbearance to act must be in submission to authority; the command must be known to the person, and his compliance must be in consequence of it, or it is not obedience.

Respect, *v.* To view or consider with some degree of reverence; to esteem as possessed of real worth.

Rewards, *n.* Recompense [payment], or equivalent return for good done, for kindness, for services and the like. Rewards may consist of money, goods or any return of kindness or happiness.

Serve/Serving, / *v.* To work for; to bestow the labor of body and mind in the employment of another.

Sincerity, *n.*

1. Honesty of mind or intention; freedom from simulation or hypocrisy. We may question a man's prudence, when we cannot question his sincerity.
2. Freedom from hypocrisy, disguise or false pretense; as the sincerity of a declaration or of love.

Slavery, State of being subjected to involuntary servitude. It usually included being legally owned as property by another person. Slavery in the biblical world was complex and normally very different than the slavery of the eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Western world. Slavery in the Ancient Near East. This historical and legal antecedents to slavery in the Old Testament are derived from the nations of the Fertile Crescent, ranging from Babylon to Egypt. The society of the ancient Near Eastern world had three major categories: free, semi-free, and slave. All social structures were defined within these categories.

Work

1. Labor; employment; exertion of strength; particularly in man, manual labor.
2. State of labor; as, to be at work.