

Slaves and Masters—Ephesians 6:5–9

Open It

1. Had you lived long ago and owned slaves, what kind of slave owner would you have been?
2. If you were a slave, what would be the worst part of being someone's property?

Ephesians 6:5–9 (ESV)

⁵**Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ,**

⁶**not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart,**

⁷**rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man,**

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

⁹**Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.**

Explore It

3. Why did Paul tell slaves to obey their masters “with respect and fear”?
4. What responsibilities did slaves have to their masters?
5. How did Paul transform the work of the slave?
6. How could slaves serve the Lord while working for their masters?
7. With what attitude should the slave serve his master?
8. What reward for Christian service could the slave expect?
9. What directives did Paul give slave owners?
10. How does God view rank or social status?

Get It

11. How were Paul's instructions helpful and protective to both slave and slave owner?
12. How do we enslave certain groups in our society?
13. When should Christians work for social justice?

Apply It

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