

God's Grace In US

Ephesians 6:5-9

Colossians 3:22-4:1

Slaves & Masters

'Under the Influence'

Context & Questions

- **Three Groups** – relationships transformed
 - Wives & Husbands
 - Children – Parents
 - Slaves – Masters
- **Questions!**
 - *Christianity & Slavery*
 - *Role of the church in transforming society?*
 - *What about contemporary forms of enslavement, human trafficking, etc.?*
 - *What about employee-employer relationship?*

Bringing the Text to Light

• Slaves & Slavery

– ***doulos*** = slave/servant = ***bondservant***
i.e. obliged to render service to another

– Slavery in NT times

- Vast numbers – much of the productive labor in the Roman Empire was by bondservants, including positions of power & responsibility.
- Could be subject to inhumane and barbaric treatment, but that was not the norm.
- Many could aspire to and become ‘freedmen,’ and slavery was not based on race.

Bringing the Text to Light

- **Slaves & Slavery**
- **Christian Bondservants**
 - Obedience “With an Attitude”
 - *Obey* - follow the other’s instruction & direction with an intent to comply.
 - *Submit* - follow the other’s lead wherever & whenever possible.
 - See [1 Pet 2:18-23](#)
 - This is to be the normal, regular, on-going action, not something occasional or unusual!

Bringing the Text to Light

- **Slaves & Slavery**
- **Christian Bondservants**
 - Obedience “With an Attitude”
 - *with ‘fear & trembling’* – i.e. humble respect. Not just the master, but the Master! [Col 3:22](#)
 - *sincere, from the heart* – see [Col 3:23](#)
 - *not just eye-service, as people-pleasers* i.e. not just when you’re being observed
 - with the future in view – see [Col 3:24](#)
 - [1 Cor 7:22!!!](#)

Bringing the Text to Light

- **Slaves & Slavery**
- **Christian Bondservants**
- **Christian Masters**
 - *In the same way...*
 - *not threatening, but justly and fairly*
 - *you are not the Master, but you do have a Master!*

Slaves and Masters “Under the Influence” – Eph 6:5-9

Bringing the Text to Light

Applying the Text to Life

How must God’s people respond to the brokenness and evil in our world?

- The bible and slavery**
- The church and social action**