

# Life Group Homework

## **EPHESIANS 6:5-9**

### **Let's Get Started:**

This week the apostle Paul continues to deal with the practical aspect of living a Spirit-filled life of submission and humility in relationships. In Ephesians 6:5-9, he turns our attention to work-related relationships. Most of us have found ourselves in a situation with an employer or as a volunteer, when we have felt unfairly or unjustly treated or unappreciated. In these verses, Paul is showing us that as Christians, our first obligation is to please God and be a faithful testimony to Him, and that includes the workplace. One way to do this, Paul says, is to give willing obedience to those under whom you work, regardless of who they are or the quality of their character.

- a. How is Paul's teaching about behavior towards bosses counter to human nature?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- b. Share a situation in the workplace where you felt you were treated unfairly or unjustly, yet you chose to react with Christ-like character and submission, as Paul describes in this passage?

### **Let's Dig In:**

#### **Read Ephesians 3:11-13**

In this passage, what does the Bible teach us about the access we have to God in every situation? Choose one below:

- A. You cannot have direct access to God
- B. You must go through a priest or a pastor to have access to God's help
- C. You have direct access to God at all times in all situations

#### **Read Ephesians 4:17-22**

In this passage, Paul teaches that you have the power to live a supernatural life. Who does the Bible indicate is in the "driver's seat" with the ability to take off the old you and put on the new you? Choose one below:

- A. God

B. The Holy Spirit

A. You

### **Read Ephesians 5:15-20**

In this passage, the Bible declares that the “new you” lives under the constant powerful control of:

A. Your will power

B. Your rights

C. The Holy Spirit

### **THE CHRISTIAN BOND SERVANT**

***“The passion of Christianity comes from deliberately signing away my own rights and becoming a bondservant of Jesus Christ. Until I do that, I will not begin to be a saint.”***

*Oswald Chambers ~ My Utmost For His Highest*

In New Testament times, a bondservant could refer to someone who voluntarily served others. In most cases, however, the term referred to a person in a permanent role of service. In the Apostle Paul’s day, a bondservant was considered the property of a Roman citizen. Most New Testament writers referred to themselves as servants, bondservants, or some form of a slave of Jesus Christ, as derived from the Greek word “doulos.”

1. Do you agree with Oswald Chambers point of view? Why or why not?

2. How does deliberately signing away your own rights and becoming a bondservant of Jesus Christ fit into your Christian world-view and how does it affect real life, including the workplace?

### **THE ATTITUDE OF A CHRISTIAN BOND SERVANT**

***“Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ.” - Ephesians 6:5***

a. Read Romans 13:1. Who is ultimately responsible for placing you under the authority to another person, such as an employer? \_\_\_\_\_.

b. Why do you think Paul uses the term “fear and trembling” to describe an attitude of serving someone who has authority over you?

One way to describe **sincerity** is: ***The quality of being free from pretense, deceit, or hypocrisy.*** Look up the following scriptures and in just a few words, write down the basic theme of each scripture as it relates to serving in the workplace with a sincere heart:

a. Proverbs 10:9

b. Acts 24:16

c. Proverbs 19:1

d. I Timothy 1:5

### **Read Ephesians 6:5,7**

a. With this in mind, who are we actually working for when we go to our place of employment or where we volunteer our time and service?

b. What does this mean, in reality? Can you think of circumstances where this might be difficult to live out? Have you had to wrestle and pray through the reality of putting this mindset into practice in a difficult environment?

### **FAIRNESS AND UNFAIRNESS**

Few, if any, employment or volunteer situations are totally free of unfair supervisors, practices, policies, or treatment. With this in mind, what impact and influence could the truth of **2 Corinthians 5:10** have on our reactions and behaviors when faced with these types of challenges?

## **Let's Live It Out:**

In Pastor Jerry's message, he indicated three biblical guidelines for Christian employers:

1. Treat your employees the same way you wish God to reward you (verse 8)
2. Correct your employees with great care (verse 9b)
3. Be fair and generous (verse 9c)

***How has this week's study contributed to your potential to become more like Christ to those under your leadership and authority?***