

Life in Community
A Community which Honors Christ, Regardless
1 Timothy 6:1-2

- I. A Brief Note about Slavery in General and in Context
 - A. Slavery is bad and wrong; it represents one of the worst expressions of the human spirit of depravity and oppression
 - B. Why was slavery “allowed” in the Scripture?
 - 1. Cultural accommodation (we must be cautious here)
 - 2. Reflection of the impending Christian call
 - 3. Are any of us truly free? (philosophical)
 - C. Distinctions between Romans “slavery” and that we are most familiar with in the United States
 - 1. 25-33% of entire Roman population (and these are “low estimates)
 - 2. Ranged from field-workers to people in “government administrative roles”
 - 3. Brought about by war, birth, personal debt, etc., and not specifically by the belief that one “race of man” was less than another.
 - 4. The Roman institution was so engrained in the life of the empire that any move against it would likely have been deemed as an act of treason.
 - D. The “gospel progression” of slavery in the Scripture
- II. The Actual Instruction to Believing Slaves

- A. Honor your unbelieving masters, so that the gospel is not diminished
 - B. Be diligent in service to your believing masters, so that the glory of the gospel can be manifest for all you see it
- III. The Principles We Should Glean for Our Time
 - A. Christians are called upon to make the name of Jesus and His gospel the priority of life
 - 1. Not personal rights
 - 2. Not personal situations and circumstances
 - B. If God, in His sovereignty, places us even in the worst of circumstances, we do not gain a license to belittle the name of Jesus through our own selfishness
 - C. We must not allow the familiarity of Christian “brotherhood” to be used as an excuse to release us from the burden of bearing our cross.
 - D. There is a right way and time to make both social progress and to fight social injustice. The impact of both on the gospel and its proclamation should factor heavily into such a conversation (Philemon example).