

**FOR THE BROTHERS:
A STUDY IN THE EPISTLES OF JAMES, JOHN, JUDE
AMEN BIBLE STUDY 2016-2017**

**The Man and His Work
Ephesians 6:5-9
May 4, 2017**

I. The Gospel transforms culture and our relationships.

⁵ *Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, ...*

- A. Paul was opposed to every form of injustice.
- B. The Gospel crumbles unjust relationships and creates mutually positive ones between Christians.
cf. Philemon 15-16; II Corinthians 5
- C. Our lives must be shaped by the Gospel.

II. The Gospel transforms the mindset of workers.

cf. I Corinthians 7:21-22, 12:22-26; Matthew 20:16-17; 25:40-41

- A. Jesus dignifies us.
- B. Jesus transforms your work place into a sanctuary.
 - 1. We respect our earthly boss.
...with a sincere heart,...
 - 2. We work with integrity.
...as you would Christ,
 - 3. We work with singular devotion to 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,*
 - 4. We work with joy.
⁷ *rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man,*
- C. Our motivation is our eschatological reward.
⁸ *knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free.*

III. The Gospel transforms the how and why of our leadership.

- A. We are servants to those we lead.
⁹ *Masters, do the same to them, ...*
- B. We act for the well-being of others.
... and stop your threatening,...
- C. We are all servants of the Lord.
...knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.

1. All ground is level at the foot of the Cross.
cf. Romans 6:28; Ephesians 2:4; Galatians 3:28
2. We are called to imitate the Lord.
cf. Mark 10:42-32; Ephesians 5:18c; Philippians 2:1-5

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does the Gospel transform relationships as it did for Philemon and Onesimus?
2. What attitudes of the Christian worker listed in vv. 5-7 are the most rare in today's workplace?
3. How does Christ reward His people for their faithfulness now? What is our ultimate reward?
4. How did Jesus lead His people?
5. How do we cultivate His model of leadership in our lives?

Going Deeper

1. What do we learn about work since God not only worked but called His work "good"?
2. Could even the worst imagined job still have dignity? If so, why?
3. How can you honor the people in jobs this week who are typically disregarded or unvalued?