

23 April 2023 -- Questions to Discuss and Consider at Home or in Small Group

“Serving and Leading Are Not Mutually Exclusive” -- Ephesians 6:5-9

1. Whom did Paul address first in the final pair of domestic relationships that are to model Biblical submission (v. 5a)?
2. What was the status or position in life of this first group addressed?
3. What was the responsibility of this first group (v. 5b)?
4. What five qualities did Paul use to describe their service (vv. 5b-7)?
5. What motivation did Paul give for why bondservants were to serve in the manner he described (v. 8a)?
6. Who would receive back good from the LORD (v. 8b)?
7. Whom did Paul address last in the final pair of domestic relationships (v. 9a)?
8. What was the positive manner they were to show to their servants (v. 9a)?
9. What practice did Paul command them to cease (v. 9b)?
10. Why were masters to treat their servants in these ways (v. 9b)?
11. Why do you suppose this section of instructions by Paul to the Church is troubling to contemporary Christians?
12. How did the institution of slavery in the non-Jewish world differ from the kind of servanthood regulated in the Mosaic economy?
13. Does Paul legitimize the institution of slavery? Why do you think Scripture does not outlaw the institution of slavery outright?
14. What foundational, Biblical principles would render an institution of bondage obsolete?
15. What statements in Paul's directions to servants and masters would lead to overturning the brutal and demeaning institution of slavery?
16. Who were some Christians you can think of who helped bring about an end to slavery in the Western world?
17. How can Christ Jesus be seen in your work ethic, especially if you are an employee, contractor, or public service member? If you are a boss?
18. If you are under someone in business, military, or public service, how does your boss treat you and those under him/her?
19. If you are in charge of others, how would they describe your treatment and management over them?
20. How can service be a form of leading? How can leading be a form of service?