

How does Jesus change the way I work?

Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, Ephesians 6:5 (ESV)

Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. Ephesians 6:5 (NIV)

What does the Bible teach about slavery?

1. Slavery in America

for the sexually immoral, for those practicing homosexuality, for slave traders and liars and perjurers—and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine 1 Timothy 1:10 (NIV)

2. Slavery in the Ancient World

- A third of the population in major cities of the ancient world were slaves.
- Slaves owned slaves.
- Most slaves were free by the age of 30.
- Slaves could buy their freedom if they saved their money.
- If you were an unwanted child, you might become a slave.
- Slavery was a way out of debt.
- Slavery was a way out of poverty.

While the Bible doesn't condemn slavery outright, it knocks down the pillars slavery is built on.

- 1 Corinthians 7:21, Paul encourages slaves to gain their freedom.
- The Bible tells us to love our neighbor, not own our neighbor.

- The Bible tells us to treat others like we want to be treated.
- We are told to be imitators of Christ. Christ did not own slaves.
- The entire book of Philemon is about treating a Christian slave like a brother.

What should be different about a Christian employee?

Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, Ephesians 6:5 (ESV)

1. Work for my boss like I am working for Christ.

2. Treat my boss with respect.

...obey your earthly masters with respect and fear...

What if my boss is a nut case?

Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. 1 Peter 2:18–19 (ESV)

3. Have A Good Attitude At Work.

...with sincerity of heart...

Work hard even if everyone else is taking their time.

Work hard even when the boss isn't looking.

not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, Ephesians 6:6 (ESV)

- Don't do the minimum work a job requires. Do the job right.
- Don't bill for unproductive hours.
- If my boss is a Christian, don't take advantage of his grace.

Those who have believing masters must not be disrespectful on the ground that they are brothers; rather they must serve all the better since those who benefit by their good service are believers and beloved. Teach and urge these things. 1 Timothy 6:2 (ESV)

Bondservants are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, not pilfering, but showing all good faith, so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior. Titus 2:9–10 (ESV)

4. Remember Jesus will reward me, even if my boss doesn't.

rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free. Ephesians 6:7–8 (ESV)

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. 2 Corinthians 5:10 (ESV)

How do I honor Christ as an employer?

Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him. Ephesians 6:9 (ESV)

1. Don't motivate with threats.

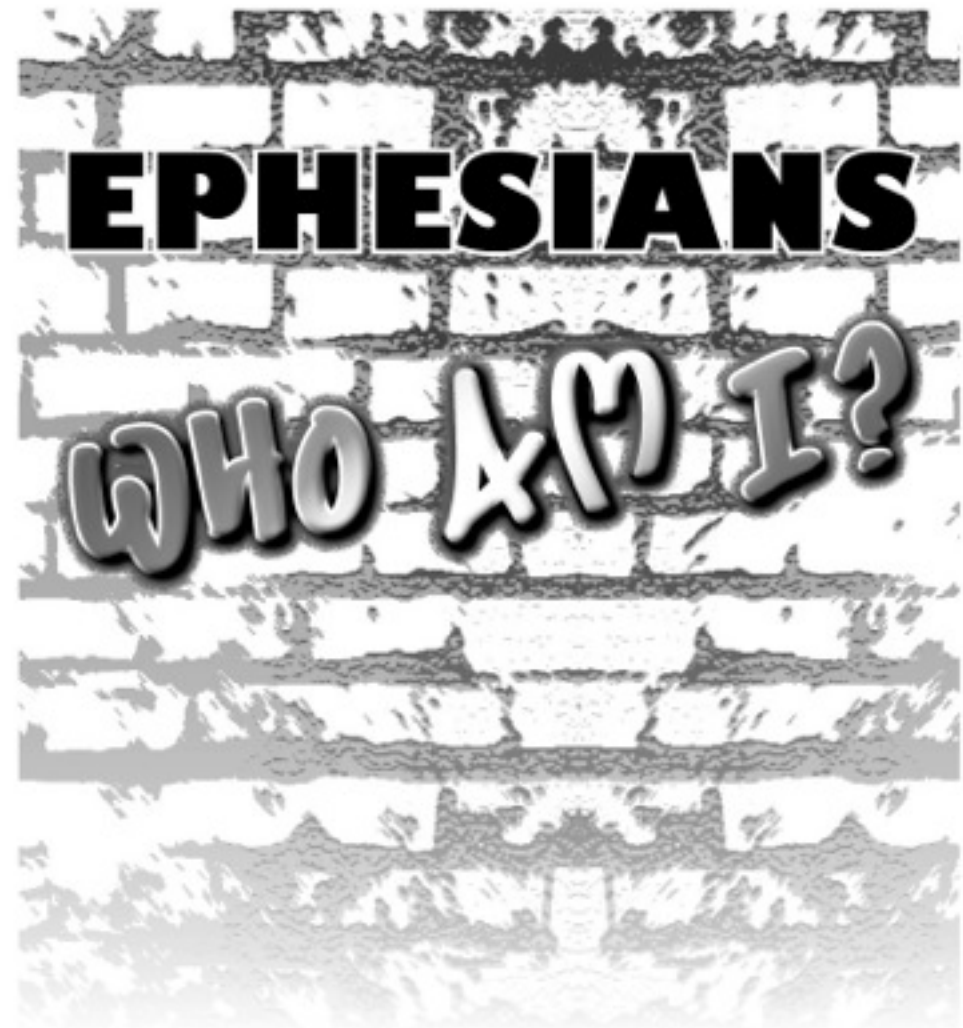
...stop your threatening...

2. Don't show favoritism.

...there is no partiality with him.

For God shows no partiality. Romans 2:11 (ESV)

For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality. Colossians 3:25 (ESV)



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