



EPHESIANS SERIES

BUILT ON BIBLICAL BEDROCK

THE CHURCH THAT PLEASES GOD

STUDY GUIDE • EPHESIANS 6:5-8



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EPHESIANS 6:5-8

WELCOME:
Fixing
Our Focus

Suggested icebreaker:
Have each GG member describe their working environment to the rest of the group. How are their relationships with their superiors and peers? What is the atmosphere like there?

WORSHIP:
Adoring
Our God

Suggested songs:

- Make Me a Servant
- Living for Jesus

WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word

LESSON AIM

1. GG members will commit to submit to those in authority over them.
2. GG members will obey God by obeying earthly authorities.

INTRODUCTION

In the previous lessons, we looked at how believers were to submit to one another in the context of a husband and wife relationship and a father and child relationship. In this lesson and the next, we will look at it in another context - that of a master and bondservant relationship.

Paul instructed bondservants to obey their masters as they obey Christ (v. 5)

1. What does it mean to obey “with fear and trembling”?
How would you describe “fear and trembling” in the context of Mark 5:33 and Philippians 2:12?
2. How would obeying with a sincere heart look like? What are some ways to measure this?
3. What connection does Paul make between believers and their obedience to their masters?

APPLICATION

Children

What does the word “obey” mean to you? In what ways should we follow and listen to our parents, teachers, and those in authority? Discuss ways we can show that kind of obedience.

Youth

What are some of the reasons it becomes difficult at times for you to “obey” your authority figures (e.g. – parents, teachers, org heads, etc.)?

Adults

1. We are called to obey our earthly “masters” (which can be our employers, government officials, etc.) with “fear and trembling” and with a “sincere heart”. On a scale of 1-10 with 10 being the highest, how would you rate yourself with regard to this?
2. Our obedience to our earthly “masters” should reflect our obedience to Christ. How would you rate yourself when it comes to obeying Christ “with fear and trembling” and with a “sincere heart”?

WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word

Community

What are some ways for us, as a community of believers, to show our obedience to our government?

World

In a world where human liberty and freedom are valued, sometimes at the expense of compliance to authorities, how can we as Christians reflect a healthy balance between the two?

Paul showed how bondservants should obey their masters (vv. 6-7)

1. How would you describe the attitude of a servant who serves by way of “eye-service”? What are possible motivations for such behavior?
2. Enumerate the differences between people-pleasers and believers who serve from the heart. How do the two contrast each other?
3. How would you compare having God as your master versus having a human as your master?

APPLICATION

Children

1. When your parents ask you to do chores, how do you usually respond? Do you complain and continue playing, or do you follow right away?
2. How can you serve the Lord wholeheartedly in little simple ways?

Youth

1. How can you tangibly serve your authority figures with a sincere heart? What are some of the things that help you accomplish this?
2. What are some of the subtle ways you get tempted to be a people-pleaser today?

Adults

1. Who are the “masters” in your life right now? How can you serve them sincerely, as if serving the Lord?
2. How can you protect yourself from thinking or behaving like a people-pleaser?

Community

How can your sincere service in your workplace act as a beacon of light for the gospel message to your co-workers?

World

How can Christians be examples to others when it comes to serving with sincerity?

WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word

Believers who do good will receive God's reward (v. 8)

1. What does this passage teach us about God's character?
2. What encouragement can we find in this passage?

APPLICATION

Children

1. Have you ever experienced receiving a reward or an award? Do you get the feeling of excitement? How does receiving an award or reward feel?
2. Should we do the right things just to receive rewards or should we do what is good even if we do not receive these? Why should we do the right thing?

Youth

1. Over the years, what are some of the best rewards you've received for doing something well?
2. What are some of the good things you can do this week as you await a reward from the Lord?

Adults

1. What effect does this passage have on you, knowing that you'll receive rewards for doing good?
2. Do you think receiving rewards is a good motivation for doing good? Why or why not? If not, what should be your motivation for doing good?

Community

How does this passage affect those of us who work in environments where there is unfair treatment or even abuse? How can we be a light in the workplace even in these circumstances?

World

How can our hope of future reward spur us to share the same hope to those who don't have it yet?

PRAYER ITEM

Pray for one another that you be God's witnesses in the workplaces where God has placed you. Pray for God to preserve each one's testimony, and that you remember that your ultimate master is God. Pray for those in your workplaces who still need to hear and accept the gospel of Jesus Christ.



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Know Christ and Make Him Known

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