

1 Timothy 6:1-10 Godliness in Controversies

Notes:

- vv. 1-2, Many slaves (better understood here as bondservants) became Christians as well as some masters, so its significant Paul addresses them both. Its important to recognize the phrase *so that*. The concern is for the reputation of the church's teaching in the broader society.
- vv. 3-5, Paul returns to the subject of dealing with the false teachers.
 - "quarrels about words" is translated from *logomacheo* which more literally means word-battles.
 - There are five harmful behaviors that result from these arguments: envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions, and constant friction.
- vv. 6-10, In part the solution is "godliness with contentment" and to remember the big picture in verse 7. Avoid the entrapments of wealth and the love of money.

Questions

1. v. 1, Paul's reason for his instruction to slaves here is "so that God's name and our teaching may not be slandered." Why might that be a concern?
2. vv. 1-2, While by no means slaves and masters parallel to modern work. But why is respect between an employer and the employee important? What deeper motivation does a Christian have to seek to show respect in working relationships?
3. vv. 3-5, What is the fruit of unhealthy arguments? What does it look like for a Christian contend for the truth about Jesus in a healthy way?
4. vv. 6-10, It is implied here that these false teachers are about money. The Bible consistently warns against the entrapments of wealth and money. Why?
5. Greed is often the hardest sin to identify because it leverages comparison to blind us to our lack of contentment. How does a desire for wealth, or even financial security, become a trap and bring about harm?
6. How might God be challenging you to be more content, things to get rid of or be most satisfied with? What would it look like to grow in faith through realizing the riches you have in Christ?