

## # Outline

### ## I. Introduction and Announcements

- A. Mother's Day recognition for spiritual mothers
- B. Graduate recognition request
- C. Upcoming Baptism and Child Dedication (May 24th)
- D. Opening Prayer

### ## II. Recap and Context

- A. Continuation from previous week (Ephesians 6:1-4)
- B. The temptation to divide life into "sacred" and "secular" categories
- C. Paul's message: no acceptable delineation for true followers of Christ
- D. Structure of Ephesians as a single letter meant to challenge for life change

### ## III. Understanding Slavery in Biblical Context

- A. Paul addresses the most uncomfortable social reality of his world
- B. New Testament does not endorse chattel slavery
  - 1. 1 Corinthians 7:21 - encouragement to gain freedom
  - 2. Letter to Philemon - dismantling master-slave relationship
- C. Paul's purpose: injecting the gospel into the system
- D. Christ-followers can reflect Jesus' lordship even in worst circumstances

### ## IV. Instruction to Slaves/Employees (Ephesians 6:5-8)

- A. Verse 5: Obedience with fear and trembling
  - 1. Direct address affirms dignity as moral agents
  - 2. "Fear and trembling" = reverent awe before God

3. "Sincerity of heart" = undivided devotion regardless of supervision
4. "As to Christ" = Christ is the ultimate supervisor

#### B. Verses 6-7: Working from the heart

1. Not eye-service or people-pleasing
2. Workplace ethic should differ from unbelievers
3. Witness through attitude toward authority
4. "Slaves of Christ" = spiritual freedom despite worldly position
5. Working "from the soul" with excellence

#### C. Verse 8: Divine reward system

1. God rewards regardless of social status
2. Reward based on faithfulness, not position
3. Revolutionary concept in Roman economy

### ## V. Instruction to Masters/Employers (Ephesians 6:9)

- A. "Do the same to them"
- B. "Stop your threatening" - reject intimidation as management tool
- C. Recognition that every master has a Master in heaven
- D. God shows no partiality/favoritism

### ## VI. The Doctrine of Divine Impartiality

- A. Greek concept: "face-receiving"
- B. Hebrew roots: *nāśā' pānîm* ("to lift the face")
  1. Leviticus 19:15 - command against partiality
  2. Deuteronomy 10:17 - God takes no bribes

- C. God does not adjust treatment based on status or achievement
- D. This is a mandate for Christ's community, not just divine character

### ## VII. The Cross as the Great Equalizer

- A. Jesus died for every person regardless of status
- B. "The ground at the foot of the cross is level"
- C. Relationships are theological, not merely relational
- D. Using power wrongly contradicts the gospel
- E. Honoring those beneath us preaches a sermon with our lives

### ## VIII. Living Coram Deo - Before the Face of God

- A. Latin phrase from the Reformers
- B. All of life lived in God's presence
- C. Not a burden but a liberation
- D. Gospel foundation: redeemed by Christ's blood (1 Peter 1:18-19)
- E. Freedom to honor, serve, submit, lead, and love

### ## IX. Application Question

- A. Are relationships living proof of Christ's redemption?
- B. Do others see Jesus in our interactions?
- C. Looking for direction and trajectory, not perfection

### ## X. The Power of Knowing Your Master

- A. Transformation rests on knowing who the Master is
- B. Awakened awareness that God sees everything
- C. Work and sacrifice are not invisible

D. God is keeping the books

## ## XI. Life Change Challenge

A. Offer one act of unseen service

1. Something nobody asked for
2. Something likely unnoticed
3. Consciously offered "to the Lord"

B. Address one relationship where power was used wrongly

1. Confess, ask forgiveness, or change pattern
2. Take one concrete step

C. Goal: people see the Redeemer through how we live

## ## XII. Closing Prayer and Blessing

A. Ephesians 3:20-21

B. God's power at work within us

C. Glory to Him throughout all generations