



Sunday, May 20, 2018
Pastor Don Denyes

Intro to Ephesians 6:5-9

Ever since the fall of mankind work has been hard. The work itself can be difficult, fraught with all kinds of problems or setbacks. The people we work with can be difficult, sometimes we get along great, but at other times we would rather they found a nice promotion at another company! Worst of all can be our relationships with our employers. Sometimes we think we know better than they do (and perhaps occasionally we're right). Sometimes they don't treat us the way we think they should. Then again, sometimes it's the other way around—the boss has a difficult employee they simply don't know what to do with.

Thankfully, like marriage and family dynamics, the Lord knows where the pressure points are in our lives. He knows that our work—like our family dynamics have been significantly altered by the curse. Our work is difficult to do in a God-honoring way (no matter what the profession). So God, in His grace, gives us instructions for how to handle employer/employee relationships. The more we learn to treat one another with respect and dignity and live out the commands of Ephesians 6:5-9, the clearer the gospel will be to those around us. But if, like often times, we slack off and then seek to win an opportunity to share Christ, then we are less likely to succeed because people will see our failure rather than Christ.

Context

This section comes on the heels of what are commonly referred to as the “household codes” (Eph. 5:22-6:9; Col. 3:18-4:1). These “codes” are largely commands that flow from the indicative realities stated in earlier chapters. In this case, Paul has followed the basic pattern of life for most people (marriage, family, work). Our need to practically live out the Christian life has a lot room for contemplation and growth in just those areas.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

“Learning to Get Along”

Read Ephesians 6:5-9

Paul’s primary concern is not our social condition but our inward attitude.

Labor... slaves

- Directive... obey
- Respect and fear... and trembling
- Sincerity... singleness of heart
- Focus on Christ... He is your master
- Knowing... He will reward you

Management... masters

- Directive... treat with respect
- Refrain... from threatening
- Knowing... you have the same master and there is no partiality with Him!

Don’t fixate on improving your situation, rather focus on improving your serve... **FOCUS ON SERVING CHRIST!**

