

Connect

Does a product being fair trade certified have an impact whether you chose to buy it or not?

Verses - Ephesians 6:5-9 (CSB)

5 Slaves, obey your human masters with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as you would Christ. 6 Don't work only while being watched, as people-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing God's will from your heart. 7 Serve with a good attitude, as to the Lord and not to people, 8 knowing that whatever good each one does, slave or free, he will receive this back from the Lord. 9 And masters, treat your slaves the same way, without threatening them, because you know that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him.

Study

Remember the Apostle Paul is writing to Christians. He is writing both to Christian slaves (6:5-8) and to Christian masters (6:9) about how they must behave towards one another.

1. Does Paul think there is any difference between slaves and masters in God's eyes? (Galatians 3:28)

2. How does Paul tell slaves to treat their master, and how does Paul tell masters to treat their slaves? (Who would you say benefits most from this, in a worldly sense?)

3. Once slaves and masters are all following Paul's instructions, what differences might remain between them in the Christian community? (In the short/long-run?)

APPLY

How may Paul's instructions be applied to your modern-day experiences as Christian bosses and workers Etc.? How would it not apply?

DISCUSS

1. Did Paul think that slavery was a good thing? (Why didn't he instruct Christians to abolish it?) Does this mean that Christians (then/now) should ever accept it?

2. How and when should Christians take a stand against slavery, oppressive bosses, negligent parents, and abusive spouses?

Share

Regarding today's verses, how will it change the way you serve others regardless of their relationship to you? How is this a reflection of Christlikeness?

Grow

Based on what you have studied, in prayer: What can you confess? What can you praise and thank God for? Finally, take prayer requests and pray for each other.