

Ephesians 6:5-9

FOLLOWING THE MESSAGE

- 1) God designed us and gifted us with abilities. He has equipped us to earn a living, to provide for our families, to be of service to others. Yet man's fallen nature turns God's provisions to selfish goals.
- 2) 6:5-6 The extent of a Christian's submission goes far beyond the outward. There is a deeper spirit of submission:
 - with fear and trembling (vs. 5)
 - in the sincerity of your heart (vs. 5)
 - not by way of eye-service, as men-pleasers (vs. 6)
 - doing the will of God from the heart (vs. 6)
- 3) 6:5-6 An inward dimension of submission accompanies the outward acts of obedience, setting the Christ-follower apart from the rest.
- 4) 6:5 The generosity which accompanies sincerity is evidenced by going above and beyond the minimum requirements given by the master.
- 5) 6:6 The faithful believer will not simply do the minimum.
- 6) 6:7 Submission produces a far greater obedience.
- 7) 6:8 An employer may not appreciate or even be aware of work done. God knows; God credits; God rewards.
- 8) Three areas in which the believer's attitudes and actions should contrast the unbeliever's:
 - The Christian submits inwardly as well as outwardly to his earthly master.
 - The Christian obeys his earthly master as an expression of his submission to the Lord.
 - The Christian looks to his Heavenly Master for his reward, which he will receive in eternity.
- 9) 6:9 Threatening seeks to produce obedience by instilling fear. Christ-honoring leadership motivates service through grace and gratitude.
- 10) 6:9 We play no favorites, because God plays no favorites.

Conclusion:

- Submission to higher authorities is rooted in our submission to God.
- Obedience and submission to those in authority over us is the will of God.
- Submission and obedience go beyond the surface level of appearances.
- The glory of God (not our happiness) is the chief end of our salvation.

HEBREW & GREEK WORDS

Ābad (aw-bad')—[primitive] to work; by implication to serve, till, dress, + husbandman, keep, labor (-ing man)
Shāmar (shaw-mar')—primitive; properly to hedge about (as with thorns), i.e. guard; to protect, attend to, :- beware, be circumspect, take heed (to self), keep (-er, self), mark, look narrowly, observe, preserve, wait (for), watch (-man)
Haplotēs (hap-lot'-ace) singleness, (without dissimulation or self-seeking), or (objective) generosity :- bountifulness, simplicity