

Church As Family

1 Timothy 6:1-2

6 Let all who are under a yoke as bondservants regard their own masters as worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and the teaching may not be reviled. ² Those who have believing masters must not be disrespectful on the ground that they are brothers; rather they must serve all the better since those who benefit by their good service are believers and beloved.

Several ways to mishandle the text:

_____ it.

_____ it.

_____ it.

_____ it.

Some pressing questions:

Does the Bible _____ slavery?

Were many Christians before us _____ on the subject?

On what basis may we declare, "Slavery is wrong"?

Can we make specific moral pronouncements on matters Scripture does not directly or obviously address?

Some necessary information:

Slavery was ubiquitous in the 1st century. Some estimate that _____ of the world's population was under the yoke of slavery during the time of the Roman Empire.

Slavery was both _____ (largely due to poverty and debt) and _____ (due to _____).

Slavery was rarely (if ever) _____ based in the 1st century.

The Old Testament _____ the existence of forms of slavery but _____ it, while _____ a certain form of it:

Exodus 21:16

Deut. 24:7

The New Testament acknowledges the reality of slavery in the world but _____ it for Christians:

1 Tim 1:9-10

The entire _____ institution of slavery—which began with the capture of African slaves and included the passage to the Americas—directly violated the law of God, as does the widespread _____ around the world today.

The text doesn't address slavery in general, or even slaveholders. It addresses those who were _____.

Two necessary applications:

My _____ has nothing to do with my ability to _____.

My commitment to Christ requires _____ in all circumstances—even in unfair or unjust ones. God's _____ supersedes my "_____".

_____ transforms every relationship into that of _____. We must live accordingly.

Being a Christian _____ ought to be an obvious _____ to all who work for me.

Being a Christian _____ ought to be an obvious _____ to all who employ me.

One final consideration:

If I am viewing _____, I am participating in the most pervasive, most destructive form of _____ in history.