**Ephesians 6:5-9**

***Follow The Leader***

Introduction

1. Paul deals with the relationship between slaves and masters. He is still concerned with the Christian household. The majority of slaves were round the home. It is not really an employee and employer relationship, for it was owner and property and the slave was not paid. It is estimated that there were over 60 million slaves in the Roman Empire or about 1/3 of the population, and more and more were becoming Christians.

2. How can we bring praise, honor and glory to God regardless of our placement?

3. Ephesians 6:5-9 The subject is a slave/master relationship. How can we bring glory

 to God? There are times when we all will lead and times when we all will follow.

**I. WHEN FOLLOWING 6:5-8**

How can we bring praise, honor and glory to God when we are positioned to rank

 under another’s authority? There are 4 principles:

1. ***The Ruler Principle 5*** Someone has to be in charge in order to have order. 4 things will be involved:
2. **Right Action** *Be obedient to (those that are over you) your masters according to the flesh.* In this life God recognizes some as over us. In this case *masters*…in our culture it could be teachers…police…parents… employers…they have the right to ask and expect you to carry out their wishes.
3. **Right Attitude** *Obey (follow their orders) with fear and trembling.* The Amplified Bible translates this verse: *Having respect for them and eager concern to please them.*

This respect and concern should promote a good days work or a positive response from those over you. *Respect for authority* in this day and age is lacking and needs to be taught.

1. **Right Approach** *In singleness of heart…*he should devote his full attention and energy to the job at hand. Give your best. Give 100% to the task presented!
2. **Right Authority** *As unto Christ…*your placement, your position is not accident. You are there for a purpose. **It is His purpose, and you are to be a positive testimony!**

Whatever is done is *unto Christ.* When we balk, we balk at Christ. How you put out is important, because the cause of Christ is at stake!

1. ***The Resolution Principle 6***
2. **Right Motives** *Not with eye service, as men pleasers…eye service* is working only to impress the boss or whomever is over you. *As men pleasers* you really put out when you are being watched. *As slaves of Christ*…we work for Him. We live for Him. He owns us. When we perform *eye service* it is a poor reflection on our Master.
3. **Right Motivation** *Doing the will of God from the heart…*what does the *will of God* look like? This is it! Grow where you are planted! Being a slave was part of God’s will for them. The ‘dirty jobs’…the ‘thankless jobs’…the job no one wants…the ‘headache’ jobs **this is God’s will for you!** *From the heart*…quit griping and complaining. **Whatever God has called you to do, be the very best that you can be!** *This is God’s will for me…*do it with the right attitude. **Do your best!**
4. ***The Relationship Principle 7***

 We are doing this for God…not man!

1. **Right Intention** *With good will doing service…*how often the wrong spirit kills a follower. **People cease to be slaves as soon as they begin to work for the Lord.** Does someone over you just burn you up or eat into your spirit? **You are serving the wrong Lord!**
2. **Right Initiative** *As to the Lord and not to men…Lord* is the key word of Ephesians 6 (vss. 1, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10) **He is Lord, not you!** Look at Jesus on the cross. *“I’ll do this for you.”* **Get your eyes off of men, circumstances and back on Jesus.** Watch the biggest drudgery turn to joy. Take out the garbage for Jesus. Go to school for Jesus. Do assignments for Jesus. Listen to your teachers, parents, authorities for Jesus.
3. ***The Reward Principle 8***
4. “Nobody will notice.” “They’ll take advantage of me.”
5. That’s God’s business! Slaves were treated like a piece of property. Some were doctors. Some were teachers. Some raised their owners children. They were still property. **Christ will reward us! Payday doesn’t come on Friday!!**
6. Do what’s right! **It does matter to God!** Each man or woman will receive back the equivalent of whatever good he or she has done. The future tense may speak of the future judgment. The rewards are given all because of God’s enablement. **What is under review? Have we appropriated God’s grace (ability, enabling) regardless of the situation, status or placement?**

How can we bring praise, honor and glory to God regardless of our placement?

**II. WHEN LEADING 6:9**

There are 4 principles in leading whether at home, as an employer, at church, etc.

1. ***The Identity Principle 9a*** *Do the same thing unto him…*walk in his shoes for awhile.Apply the ‘golden rule’: *Do unto others as you would have others do unto you.* Never ask them to do anything that you wouldn’t do. Do what you would expect them to do in the same situation. ***How would you like to be treated in the same situation?***
2. ***The Incentive Principle 9b*** *Forbearing threatening…*life and death was in the hands of the owners. **Use positive motivation.** See what praise, encouragement and compliments will do.
3. ***The Indentured Principle 9c*** *Know that your Master is also in heaven…* **Practice the Lordship of Christ.** This binding agreement was put in place at the time of our salvation!**He is Lord of all!** I am responsible to Him. I answer to Him (v. 8).
4. ***The Indifferent Principle 9d*** *Neither is there respect of persons with Him. Who I am…How impressive I am…How great I am…****does not impress God a bit.*** Forget your pride and how you appear to others! **How do you appear to God?? That’s what’s important! WHAT DOES GOD THINK ABOUT YOU?**

***Regardless of our placement or position…***

***HE WANTS US TO BRING PRAISE, HONOR AND GLORY TO HIM!***