

Eph 6:5-9

- I. Servants, Obey your masters, because God will reward you (5-8)
- A. Servants, wholeheartedly serve your masters, as if serving the Lord (5-7)
1. Servants, genuinely, wholeheartedly obey your masters (5-6b)
 - a. Servants, obey your masters as you obey Christ (5)
 - 1) Servants, be obedient to [your] masters according to the flesh (5a)

The connotation of obedience is to hear and then respond appropriately
Masters according to the flesh = earthly masters as compared with the heavenly master, 'master' is the same word as 'Lord'

 - a) With fear and trembling
-cf. Phil. 2:12, 2 Cor. 7:15, 1 Cor. 2:3
 - b) In integrity of your heart
i.e. wholehearted obedience, not just lip-service or obeying with a bad attitude
 - 2) As [you are obedient] to Christ (5b)

Not just up to the level of obedience you are currently giving to Christ, but striving for the same level that you know you should be giving to Christ
 - b. Not just faking it, but actually obeying from the heart (6a-d)
 - 1) Neg: Don't just pretend to be obedient in order to satisfy selfishness (6a-b)
 - a) Not [obey] according to eye-service (6a)

i.e. service that is only done to make an impression and only done when someone is watching, not done sincerely
-cf. Col. 3:22
 - b) As a man-pleaser (6b)

One who seeks to be liked by people, with the connotations of sacrificing integrity in order to do so, doing so only for selfish benefit, and contrast with trying to please God
 - 2) Pos: But obey as a servant of Christ (6c-d)
 - a) But [obey] (6c)
 - b) As servants of Christ (6d)

This is probably both the standard and the reason
Standard – 'obey just like a servant of Christ should'
Standard – 'obey just like you serve Christ'
Reason – 'because you are a servant of Christ'
 2. The Way in which you should obey: Eagerly and wholeheartedly, as to God (6e-7)
 - a. Doing the will of God from [your] soul (6e)

i.e. from the heart, gladly, cf. Col. 3:23
 - b. Serve with eagerness, as if you were serving the Lord (7)
 - 1) Serving with eagerness, willingness (7a)
 - 2) As serving the Lord, not men (7b-c)

Your willingness should rise to the standard of serving God. If you were serving God Himself, with Him watching, your attitude and level of service would change. Have that same standard of willingness and quality to your service to your human master.

 - a) Pos: As serving the Lord (7b)
 - b) Neg: And not as serving men (7c)

B. Reason: You know God's character and promise to reward virtue (8)

1. Because you know that: (8a)

Literally, "knowing that," the context shows that it is giving the reason for obedience

2. God will reward your good service (8b-e)

a Condition: If you do something good (8b)

b You will receive a reward, no matter who you are (8c-e)

1) Each will receive a reward for this from the Lord (8c)

God's character and promise is to repay and do justice, cf. Col. 3:25, 1 Pet. 1:17, Prov. 11:31

Both paying back punishment for those who do evil, and good for those who do good

2) Specifically: No matter who you are (8d-e)

Paul emphasizes that in God's economy, the same rules apply even to slaves. Slaves were disadvantaged legally and could be taken advantage of in Greco-Roman society, but not with God.

God can be relied upon to do right to slaves, and reward their good service, even if it seems miserable at the time.

a) Whether you are a slave (8d)

b) Or whether you are free (8e)

II. Masters, treat your slaves well, because God will reward you (9)

A. Masters, treat your slaves well, without harming them (9a-b)

1. Masters, do the same kinds of things to them (9a)

Treat your servants with the same manner of kindness, and with the same kind of attitude

2. Stopping threatening them (9b)

The issue that Paul highlights is for masters to not motivate their servants by harsh threats

There may also be an implication of carrying out the threats and doing actual harm

B. Reason: You know that God will judge you as well (9c-e)

1. Because you know that: (9c)

2. The same Lord will judge you both with the same standard (9d-e)

a Their Lord and your Lord is in heaven (9d)

The twofold emphasis is that:

the Lord is their Lord and your Lord – same Lord, same standard

He is in heaven – in authority to administer justice

b There is no favoritism with Him (9e)

God is a just judge who will judge the master with the same standard as the slave

-cf. v. 8, Col. 3:25