

THE NEW HUMANITY OF JESUS THE CHRIST:  
MEDITATIONS IN THE HOLY APOSTLE PAUL'S ADDRESS TO THE EPHESIAN FAITHFUL

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**MASTERS, DO THE SAME:**

**A VISION OF THE SPIRIT-FILLED, TIME-REDEEMING, CHRIST-REVERING EMPLOYER**  
(EPHESIANS 6:9)

**I. Introduction**

**II. (Spirit-Filled) Masters, Do the Same (Eph 6:9)**

- A. Remember: Paul is addressing Christians throughout 5:22-6:9.
- B. "Masters, do the same to them" (6:9a).
  - 1. Who are the masters?
    - a. Masters are the slave owners.
    - b. Masters are usually the heads of the homes.
    - c. Masters are often fathers (6:4) and husbands (5:25).
    - d. Masters are "lords" (*kurioi*) of their realms—the supreme lordship of God does not cancel out the lesser lordships in the world (husbands, fathers, employers).
  - 2. Masters must "do the same" to their slaves.
    - a. "The same" is plural—therefore, "the same [*things*]."
    - b. "Do the same [*things*] to them" could mean two things:
      - i. Like slaves, masters must also serve Christ.
      - ii. Masters must now render good service also to their slaves.
    - c. (ii) above seems to be the more likely option.
      - i. It takes "to them" seriously.
      - ii. It agrees with the mutual submission idea of 5:21.
- C. Masters, stop your threatening (6:9b).
- D. Why do masters need to stop their threatening (6:9c)?
  - 1. Because God is the master of both the slave and the slave-master.
  - 2. Because there is no partiality with God—and God will discipline the abusive master as he will reward the diligent slave.

**III. Spirit-Filled Living in Evil-Filled Days—For Employers**

*God does not want us Christian employers to corrupt and waste the positions of power that he has given to us by threatening and abusing our employees. Instead, he calls us to render good service to them—so manifesting the life-giving lordship of Jesus Christ by the authority God has given to us.*

- A. We do good to our employees by...
  - 1. Paying them on time.
  - 2. Caring for their physical and mental wellbeing.
  - 3. Praying for them.
  - 4. Looking out for their interests
  - 5. Restraining ourselves—"Stop your threatening."
- B. How then should we motivate our workers?
  - 1. Instead of mainly threatening, we should mainly encourage.
  - 2. Threats need to be reserved for the most serious faults.

**IV. Good News for Harsh Slave Masters and Difficult Employers**

- A. Why do we not treat our employees as we should? Why do we resort to threatening?
  - 1. We have reduced our employees' worth as persons.
  - 2. We forget that we are slaves ourselves.
  - 3. We choose not to fit our work into the kingdom of God.
  - 4. We do not trust God for our success and prosperity—so we rely on threats and coercion.
  - 5. We have forgotten God's longsuffering toward us.
- B. How do we start to "do the same" to our employees?
  - 1. We remember that God has been merciful to us in spite of our many sins.—Only a forgiven sinner can be an Ephesians 6:9-kind of employer.
  - 2. We remember that we are now slaves to God as well.
  - 3. We remember that God has given us authority for his service.

**Larger Catechism Q. 129:** What is required of superiors toward their inferiors?

**Ans:** It is required of superiors, according to that power they receive from God, and that relation wherein they stand, to love, pray for, and bless their inferiors; to instruct, counsel, and admonish them; countenancing, commending, and rewarding such as do well; and discountenancing, reproving, and chastising such as do ill; protecting, and providing for them all things necessary for soul and body: and by grave, wise, holy, and exemplary carriage, to procure glory to God, honor to themselves, and so to preserve that authority which God hath put upon them.