

**EPHESIANS – THE MYSTERY OF GOD’S CHURCH –  
OUR IDENTITY, OUR WALK, OUR WARFARE  
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**Precept Ministries International**  
P.O. Box 182218, Chattanooga, TN 37422-7218  
1-888-734-7707/ [www.preceptsforlife.com](http://www.preceptsforlife.com)

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**SERIES: Ephesians – The Mystery Of God’s Church –  
Our Identity, Our Walk, Our Warfare**

**TITLE: Program 58 – As A Christian, Are You A Good Employee?**

**WEDNESDAY**

**OPEN**

Do you realize, my friend, that Christianity is to permeate every aspect of your life? It’s not just something to be lived on the inside but it is something to be expressed on the outside. It is to take you into the market place and make you the best employee that that employer has ever had. It’s to take you into a place of management and make you a master like Jesus Christ, a boss that rules under different rules knowing that he is answerable to God. This is what it’s all about, and we’ll talk about it today.

**PART ONE**

In Ephesians chapter 6 before Paul takes them to their final subject, the final issue that he wants to deal with which is spiritual warfare, he still has some relationships to cover. He still wants to talk to slaves because he wants to

make sure that those slaves live the way God wants them to live. He wants to talk to masters telling those masters how they are to live. Christianity is to permeate every area of our life, every arena that we find ourselves in. So when you get in the car in the morning and you head to the place of your employment or you head to the place where you're the boss, God has some words for you. You say, "But they're not my slaves." No, but they are your employees and in those days about a third of the Roman Empire, was made up of slaves, and so as the gospel comes in that time and in that place in history it has a message, and it has a message to slaves and it has a message to masters. And so as Paul talks about being filled with the Spirit, when he talks about us being subject to one another in the fear of the Lord which is part of being filled with the Holy Spirit he tells a wife how she's to do that. He tells a husband how he's to do that. He tells the children how they are to do that. He tells the fathers how they are to do it and now in Ephesians chapter 6, he tells the slaves how they are to walk as filled with the Spirit and how the masters are to walk as filled with the Spirit. So although you're not a slave, think of being in someone else's service because that's what a slave did. A slave was a person that had been bought for a price or a slave was a person that has indentured himself to another human being because he couldn't pay his debt and therefore he was under the command of a master but he was there to serve the master. It's so interesting because at this point in history God does not tell the slaves to seek to be free. God does not tell the slaves that they need to be liberated. Rather He tells them how to live as a slave. Wherever you are, Beloved, whatever situation you find yourself in God has saved you in that situation and He's going to show you how to live in that situation until He cares to change it. So let's look and see what He says in Ephesians chapter 6, verse 5 and it's very interesting to me that he only gives three verses, three short sentences so to speak to children and fathers but then he turns to slaves and he turns to masters and he says far more, and I think it's far more because these were critical areas of

relationships. In verse 5, **“Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh...,”** he says, **“...with fear and trembling, in...sincerity of your heart, as to Christ; not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers...,”** he says, **“...but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.”** (Ephesians 6:5-6) What is he saying? He’s saying this is the status that you’re in and as a slave I want you to be the very best slave that you can be. I don’t want you to serve your master just with eyeservice looking at him, seeing what he likes, doing it when you want to do it but then walking away and not being true to that master. I want you to understand that you are to be a slave as Christ would have you be a slave. Look at what he says. **“...Be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh...”** (Ephesians 6:5a) Those that are ruling over you. So let’s take this and move it from slavery to employee, and what he’s saying to an employee, one that is serving another. Be obedient to them and their you’re master, their your boss, you’re under their orders you are to arrange yourself under them. You’re not responsible for paying the bills. You’re not responsible for making the business succeed so to speak and answerable to a board. You are an employee, and I want you to be obedient to those that employ you according to the flesh but he goes on to say you’re to do it **“...with fear and trembling.”** (Ephesians 6:5b) Now that word “fear” is the same word that is used in verse 33 of chapter 5. You’re to do it with respect. And you’re to do it in a sense with trembling. Not that he wants you walking around saying, “Oh, Boss, what can I do for you?” You know. “Here, let me help you.” So you’re a nervous wreck and you’re shaking all over. No. He’s saying, “Look, that position that you have is so critical because you’re a servant, and because you’re a servant you are to be so diligent in your service because you are an employee, you are to be so diligent in your work that you do it with fear and trembling. And that trembling implies you don’t want to displease them. You don’t want your boss to come in and chew you out. You want your boss to come in and

praise you. You don't want your master to come in and say, "Hey, you slave, get up. I'm gonna beat the stew out of you because you haven't done what you should do." No, and that's the way many masters treated their slaves and it was wrong and we're gonna see that in a few minutes. But what he's saying is, "Look, it ought to be from the heart that you want to serve this person. It ought to be the very essence of your being to be the very best where you are." In a former program I talked about Mia and Costel Oglice. They are Romanians and they were raised under Ceausescu. They were both persecuted for their faith. In fact, Mia's life sometimes her father feared was in great danger and he would not allow her to be baptized in the church until he understood that she was strong enough to take any persecution that come her way. They were raised in this kind of an environment and as Christians they were called Repenters, and they were looked down upon by that Communist society. They were given the lowliest of jobs. I mean Costel's a brilliant man. He speaks several languages and everything. He was a French teacher but instead they made him just a typist because he was a Christian. But you know what? Because he understood this Scripture, he was the very best typist they had. Mia was a cosmetologist in skin care. She's marvelous in skin care and she was the very, very best they could have. She was given the mean customers. She was mistreated and she was defamed but her customers absolutely loved her. Why? Because her father taught her how to respond. Her father taught her look, you're not to be a man-pleaser. You are to be a pleaser of me, and if you're a pleaser of me you're not gonna serve that person just to get away with what you can get away with but you're to do as unto me and that's the way they did. And so they didn't want to get rid of any Repenters because the Repenters were the very best workers. Just recently some of our people were put on trial in a Muslim country and we kept praying and the people didn't show up at the trial to accuse them and they didn't show up and finally the judge says, "We're taking this trial to the streets." And when they took the trial to the streets the neighbors became the

judges and that way the government thought we’re gonna have them. We’re gonna get these Christians. And so the neighborhood came out and they said, “Why are you treating these people this way? These are the nicest people in the whole neighborhood. These Christians are better than anyone else. What’s wrong with them meeting? Why are you doing this?” And the government, in a sense, went home with it’s tail tucked between it’s legs. I don’t want to tell you country because we’re in so many countries where it is so dangerous and where the situation is so precarious that I don’t want to expose anything. But I want you to know what God says. God says that whatever we do we’re to do it as unto the Lord, He says, **“With good will....” (Ephesians 6:7a) “...Doing the will of God from the heart.” (Ephesians 6:6b)** You’re not to do it with **“...eyeservice, as men-pleasers but as slaves of Christ....” (Ephesians 6:6b)** So that when you are serving your employer, you’re looking beyond your employer to Jesus Christ, your Lord, your Master and you’re saying to Jesus, “Jesus, I’m doing this as unto You.” Watch what he goes on to say. **“With good will....” (Ephesians 6:7a)** You’re not to say, “Okay, I have to be good. I have to be kind.” So they walk in the room so you smile, and they leave the room and you’re bitter. No. You’re not to do it that way. You are to serve them with good will. You’re not to be talking about your boss. You’re not to be stirring up strife within the office. You are to do it with good will and watch what he says. **“With good will render serve....” (Ephesians 6:7a)** You are there to serve. You say, “But I don’t want to serve. I want to be a boss.” Listen. A good boss knows how to serve. [Jesus Christ came not to be ministered unto but to minister, to serve and to give His life a ransom for many.] (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 20:28) You couldn’t be more like Christ than in serving another person with the attitude and the heart that [Jesus Christ did coming not to be ministered to but to minister, to give your life a ransom for many.] (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 20:28) You need to have the mind of

Christ as a servant, as an employee. We’ll talk about it in just another minute.

## **PART TWO**

Well we’ve been looking at Ephesians chapter 6 where he talks to us as slaves or we’re turning into employees and you may feel that you’re a slave if you’re an employee and he talks to masters, and we’re going to get to masters in a minute but he is not through yet talking to the slave. I think he’s talking to the slave because that is a very hard role. A slave is under the authority of another person and he wants to make sure that being under the authority of another person being held accountable to another person for your performance that you succeed and the way that you succeed, Beloved, is this. Is as you serve, you’re not doing it just for that human being but you’re doing it as for the Lord. And if you’re doing it as for the Lord, when the person that you are serving is not what they ought to be and you’re doing it as unto the Lord, then you are able to respond correctly instead of react to that person that is over you. I want us to go back to Ephesians chapter 6 and I want us to look at these verses again. And I would suggest that you spend some time just meditating on this. Maybe do it in your quiet time and transfer it to your place of employment unless you’re in executive position. He says, **“With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not [as] to men, knowing....,”** he says I want you to remember something, **“...knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive...from the Lord, whether slave or free.” (Ephesians 6:7-8)** In other words, I’m talking beyond now being a slave and I want you to understand something. That whether you’re a slave or whether you’re a free man, God is watching. And when you do whatever you do as unto the Lord, you can know. That God is going to reward you. So many times we forget that there is a reward system. We forget 2 Corinthians chapter 5, verse 10

which says that we, speaking of Christians, will all stand before the judgment seat of Christ to give an answer for the deeds done in our body whether good or bad.” (PARAPHRASE, 2 Corinthians 5:10) Watching that you don’t lose your reward and you don’t lose your reward and you gain a reward when you live in obedience to God’s precepts for life. In Romans 14:10, he tells us that there is a judgment seat. In 2 Corinthians 5:10 and Romans 14:10. Let’s look at Romans 14:10 because I want you to see what he’s saying here and he’s saying this in the midst of two groups of people trying to get along the weak brothers and the strong brothers. And in Romans chapter 14:10 he says, “...**why do you judge your brother? Or...again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, ‘As I live, says the LORD, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.’ So then each one of us [individually] will give an account of himself to God.**” (Romans 14:10-11) This is why the Bible closes in the very last chapter in Revelation with this reminder. In 22:12 it says, “**Behold....**,” Jesus is speaking, “...**I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.**” (Revelation 22:12) God rewards obedience. God rewards righteousness and that’s what righteousness is. Righteousness is obedience. It is obeying and doing what God says is right. So he wants us to understand this. You say, “But now you just don’t understand. You don’t understand what my boss is like. You don’t understand what my employer is like.” Or if you’re a slave, “You don’t understand what my master is like.” Well in 1 Peter chapter 2 Jesus leaves us an example, and this is what he says in verse 18, “**Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to those [that] are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable.**” (1 Peter 2:18) In other words, you’re to be submissive to even unreasonable bosses, unreasonable masters “**For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience towards God....**” (1 Peter 2:19a) Because you know that it’s really Christ

that you’re serving. He says, “...**A person bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly.**” (1 Peter 2:19b) That’s what made the Repenters so valuable in the Communist framework because they knew that they were serving Christ, and they knew how they were to behave towards their oppressors and they obeyed, and that’s what made them valuable. Although they despised them they still valued them because they lived life on a higher plane. He says, “**For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience?**” (1 Peter 2:20a,b) He says, “**But if when [what you do] is right and [you] suffer for it [if] you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God.**” (1 Peter 2:20c) I mean if you disobey, you can expect to reap the ramifications. If you don’t do your job, you can expect to be fired and you should be fired because it is not good for other employees for you to work there and for you not to pull your load. It send the wrong message. But he says, [if you’re doing good and you suffer for it,] (PARAPHRASE, 1 Peter 2:20b) I have a friend and their daughter is doing good and the people hate her because she’s working with a group of lesbians and they don’t like her purity and they do not like her vocabulary because it’s righteous and it’s holy and it’s kind and they come against her but she knows that she is serving the Lord. Well he goes on to say, “...**You have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example...to follow in His steps.**” (1 Peter 2:21) Now what did Jesus do? Number 1, [he did not sin.] (PARAPHRASE, 1 Peter 2:22a) He did not retaliate. He did not react.[Nor was any deceit found in his mouth.](PARAPHRASE, 1 Peter 2:22a) He didn’t retaliate in bad words either. “**And while being reviled, He did not revile...while suffering, He uttered no threats....**” (1 Peter 2:23a) He didn’t say, “Boy, someday you’re gonna get yours.” “...**But [He] kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously.** (1 Peter 2:23b) Remember the Judge is coming and his reward is with him. So what is God’s Word now to the master? Well he says, “**And master[s,] do the same things to them....**” (Ephesians

**6:9a)** In other words everything that we’ve been telling you as a slave I’m telling you as a master. You are to treat your employees, you are to treat your slaves whichever situation it is, you are to treat them in such a way as you would treat Christ. You are to remember that you are serving Christ, you are not serving just yourself. And it says, **“And masters, do the same thing...and give up threatening, [don’t keep threatening them] knowing that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.”(Ephesians 6:9)** And there’s not to be any partiality with you. You are to treat them as if you were handling someone who is a servant of Jesus Christ. Now you can find the same thing in Colossians chapter 3 where he deals with all of these issues and he tells us how we are to live. The same things repeated in a little bit different words but why is it repeated? Why does it come out in another epistle? Why did God keep all of these things and repeat them in the Bible more than once? Because it’s something that you and I need to be reminded of, Beloved. It’s something that we need to remember. We need to remember we have a Master in heaven. We need to remember that it is Him that we are serving and if we will serve Him then we will serve people in a proper way.