



The Duty of Leaders
28th in the “Ephesians” Series
Ephesians 6:9
September 20, 2026
Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this passage, we learn about leaders' duty to the people they oversee and supervise.

1) Reminder: Slavery and the Bible.

a) The Bible condemns slavery.

b) A fitting analogy is earthly leaders/supervisors and those who work under their authority.

2) A leader who is a Christian must lead in godly ways that reflect their submission to the Lord.

a) A godly leader acknowledges God's authority over them.

b) A godly leader carries and applies their authority as a slave of Christ.

c) A godly leader avoids abusing their power or showing favoritism.

Example #1: Aaron Feuerstein

Example #2: John McCain

Example #3: William Wilberforce

Response

If you are a leader, lead as a slave of Christ in word and deed.

Sunday Text Questions

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Read the text aloud and discuss any significant observations or issues that need clarification together.

- 1) What are the traits of a good leader, and what examples can you share from your experiences under good leaders?
- 2) When Paul tells masters to “treat your slaves in the same way,” he is saying that the commands given to slaves also apply to masters/leaders. How might the traits Paul commands in vv. 5-8 also apply to the way leaders should lead?
- 3) Paul prohibits masters from “threatening” their slaves. In what ways might leaders abuse their authority or use their power inappropriately?
- 4) What is Paul concerned about when he says that leaders should not show “favoritism?” What does that behavior by leaders look like in our world today?
- 5) Why is it significant that Paul reminds “masters” that they should rule knowing that “he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven?” How should that truth affect how a Christian uses their position of power and authority?
- 6) How can a leader carry real authority over people and institutions and yet also lead in ways that honor Paul’s commands here and display behaviors that show them to be slaves of Christ?
- 7) Action Step: Spend time praying for the leaders that serve in key institutions over you: in our church, in our community, in our country, in our places of employment, in our schools, etc.?

Further study this week: Passages related to the message of this week’s text: Psalm 78:72 (Mon); Proverbs 11:14 (Tues); Matthew 20:26-28 (Wed); Acts 20:28 (Thurs); Ephesians 4:11-13 (Fri).