

October 12 & 15, 2023



## **Confronting Christianity - Week #5 Does the Bible Condone Slavery?**

**Addressing two of racism's toughest questions:**

**Question #1 – Does the Bible condone slavery?**

- 1. The type of slavery we saw in America is seen as a capital offense in the Bible!**

Exodus 21:16 (NIV)

*“Anyone who kidnaps someone is to be put to death, whether the victim has been sold or is still in the kidnapper’s possession.*

1 Timothy 1:8-10 (NIV)

*We know that the law is good if one uses it properly. <sup>9</sup> We also know that the law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, <sup>10</sup> for the sexually immoral, for those practicing homosexuality, for slave traders and liars and perjurers—and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine*

**2. The Bible is descriptive in places and not prescriptive!**

**3. Slavery in scripture was more of indentured servitude.**

Exodus 21:1-2 (NIV)

*“These are the laws you are to set before them: <sup>2</sup>“If you buy a Hebrew servant, he is to serve you for six years. But in the seventh year, he shall go free, without paying anything.*

Deuteronomy 15:13–14 (NIV)

*And when you release them, do not send them away empty-handed. <sup>14</sup> Supply them liberally from your flock, your threshing floor and your winepress. Give to them as the Lord your God has blessed you.*

**4. The Gospel and the Bible, properly understood, have been the greatest force to subvert slavery!**

Galatians 3:27-28 (NIV)

*for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. <sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

**Question #2 - How do we move forward in race relations?**

**1. Live as a slave!**

Exodus 21:5-6 (NIV)

*“But if the servant declares, ‘I love my master and my wife and children and do not want to go free,’ <sup>6</sup> then his master must take him before the judges. He shall take him to the door or the doorpost and pierce his ear with an awl. Then he will be his servant for life.*

Titus 1:1 (NIV)

*Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ to further the faith of God’s elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness—*

**2. Acknowledge the hurt!**

- Racism in any form is sin!

Revelation 7:9-10 (NIV)

*After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup> And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."*

Philemon 1:8-16 (NIV)

*Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, <sup>9</sup> yet I prefer to appeal to you on the basis of love. It is as none other than Paul—an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus— <sup>10</sup> that I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains. <sup>11</sup> Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me. <sup>12</sup> I am sending him—who is my very heart—back to you. <sup>13</sup> I would have liked to keep him with me so that he could take your place in helping me while I am in chains for the gospel. <sup>14</sup> But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that any favor you do would not seem forced but would be voluntary. <sup>15</sup> Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back forever—<sup>16</sup> no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a fellow man and as a brother in the Lord.*

- Until something becomes personal, we will remain passive!

### **3. Avoid generalities!**

- Never draw opinions of a group by the actions of a few!

James 2:1 (NIV)

*My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism.*

### **4. Focus on what we have in common!**

- All created by God! Genesis 2:7
- Made in God's image! Genesis 1:26-27

- We are all one race!

Acts 17:26a (NIV)

*From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth;*

- We are all loved by God! John 3:16