



UNITY

IN CHRIST - IN COMMUNITY

UNITY

WHAT THE LORD THINKS OF SLAVERY

EPHESIANS 5:21

²¹ Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

EPHESIANS 6:5-9

⁵ Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. ⁶ Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. ⁷ Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people,

EPHESIANS 6:5-9

⁸ because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free. ⁹ And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him.

WHAT THE LORD THINKS OF SLAVERY

WHAT THE LORD THINKS OF SLAVERY

Who's in charge around here?!?

WHAT THE LORD THINKS OF SLAVERY



“I know you’re in bed sick with the flu, but I need the keys to The filing cabinet.”

“I know you’re in bed with the flu, but I need the keys to the filing cabinet.”

WHAT THE LORD THINKS OF SLAVERY



The privileges
of management

WHAT THE LORD THINKS OF SLAVERY

Who's in charge around here?!?

WHAT THE LORD THINKS OF SLAVERY

Who's in charge around here?!?

JESUS!



THE MAIN IDEA

*Honor Christ by
submitting to each
other whether in
power or not*

DOES THE BIBLE CONDONE SLAVERY?

DOES THE BIBLE CONDONE SLAVERY?

Does the Bible condone slavery?

DOES THE BIBLE CONDONE SLAVERY?

Does the Bible condone slavery?

NO!

DOES THE BIBLE CONDONE SLAVERY?

“Slavery was an ever-present feature of the Roman world. Slaves served in households, agriculture, mines, the military, manufacturing workshops, construction and a wide range of services within the city. As many as 1 in 3 of the population in Italy or 1 in 5 across the empire were slaves and upon this foundation of forced labour was built the entire edifice of the Roman state and society.

DOES THE BIBLE CONDONE SLAVERY?

“Slavery, that is complete mastery (*dominium*) of one individual over another, was so imbedded in Roman culture that slaves became almost invisible and there was certainly no feeling of injustice in this situation on the part of the rulers.”

Slavery in the Roman World, Marc Cartwright, 11/1/13

DOES THE BIBLE CONDONE SLAVERY?

Paul's teachings subvert the idea of slavery

1. Paul addresses slaves directly and BEFORE masters (v. 5)
2. Paul informs masters that in God's eyes they are not superior to their slaves (v. 9)
3. The totality of Paul's teaching undermines slavery (*Phlmn. 15-17*)

DOES THE BIBLE CONDONE SLAVERY?

Philemon 15-17

¹⁵ For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, ¹⁶ *no longer as a bondservant but more than a bondservant, as a beloved brother*—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.¹⁷ *So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me.*

DOES THE BIBLE CONDONE SLAVERY?

DOES THE BIBLE CONDONE SLAVERY?

“On January 12, 2007, FBI agents and police officers entered a small apartment in Kirkwood to cap their search for Ben Ownby, a boy who had been snatched four days before from a rural school bus stop in Franklin County. Sitting quietly on a sofa was a second boy, a teenager. He was Shawn Hornbeck, who had disappeared more than four years



DOES THE BIBLE CONDONE SLAVERY?

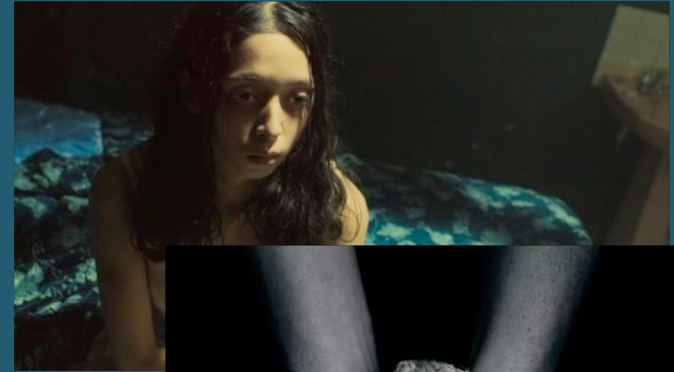
earlier from his own rural neighborhood in Washington County. He was still listed as a missing person, and almost everyone but his family had given up hope of finding him alive.”



One Search, Two Boys Found, by Tim O'Neil
St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Jan 12, 2019

DOES THE BIBLE CONDONE SLAVERY?

- Estimated that 17,500 foreign nationals and 400,000 Americans are trafficked in slavery and/or prostitution into or within the US every year.
 - 80% being women and children.
- (<http://www.humantraffickinged.com/>)



BULLETIN INSERT SLIDE

TO THOSE WITH POWER

TO THOSE WITH POWER

⁹ And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him.

TO THOSE WITH POWER

TO THOSE WITH POWER

Proverbs 16:8

⁸ Better is a little with righteousness
than great revenues with injustice.

TO THOSE WITH POWER

Inspire through love... *not fear*

TO THOSE WITHOUT POWER

TO THOSE WITHOUT POWER

⁵ Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. ⁶ Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. ⁷ Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, ⁸ because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free.

TO THOSE WITHOUT POWER



TO THOSE WITHOUT POWER

TO THOSE WITHOUT POWER

Dr. Anthony Bradley @drantbradley

A PSA: only “big God” theology gets you through slavery, Reconstruction, Jim Crow, resistance to desegregation, & the criminalization of black poverty and **still** believe the incommunicable attributes of God, the Resurrection, & the authority of Scripture, etc. [#TheBlackChurch](#)



TO THOSE WITHOUT POWER

GOD IS FOR YOU: CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?

GOD IS FOR YOU: CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?

Who's in charge around here?!?

GOD IS FOR YOU: CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?

Who's in charge around here?!?

JESUS!



UNITY

IN CHRIST - IN COMMUNITY

UNITY