

## 1 Timothy 6



## 1 Timothy 3:15



“I write so that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar & support of the truth.”

## The Church = People

- how men are to behave
- how women are to behave
- how to choose elders and deacons
- how to treat older men and women
- how to treat younger men and women
- how to honor widows
- how to honor elders

Up to 1/3 of the inhabitants of Rome were slaves!

Statue of a Prisoner of War from Gaul (France) to be sold as a slave



## People became slaves

1. as prisoners of war
2. through legal condemnation
3. through debt
4. through kidnapping
5. by being sold into slavery by their parents
6. by being born into slavery.

## 1 Timothy 6:1-2

- The Greek word for *master* is *despotes* and means one who has absolute ownership and uncontrolled power.
- Slaves should respect their masters (saved or unsaved) so that others won't speak badly of God's name and his teaching (6:1).
- Slaves with Christian masters should serve with special diligence (6:2).

## Paul to Christian Masters:

- "Masters, deal with your slaves justly and fairly, since you know that you too have a Master in heaven" (Colossians 4:1).
- "And masters, treat your slaves the same way, without threatening them, because you know that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him" (Ephesians 6:9).

## Does God approve of slavery?

- Exodus 21:16—"He who kidnaps a man, whether he sells him, or he is found in his possession, shall surely be put to death."
- Deuteronomy 23:15—"You shall not hand over to his master a slave who has escaped from his master to you."

## Applications at School or Work

- Respect authorities—regardless of their spiritual state.
- Don't expect favored treatment from a Christian teacher or Christian boss. Instead, show your respect by your hard work & good attitude.
- The teacher or boss must also avoid even the appearance of partiality for those who share his faith.

Chapter 1	Chapter 6
certain people (1:3)	anyone (6:3)
teaching differently (1:3)	teaching differently (6:3)
disputes / speculations (1:4)	controversies / disputes (6:4)
no understanding (1:7)	no understanding (6:4)
sound teaching (1:10)	sound words (6:3)

## Greek *eusebeia* = godliness

- root *seb*—always denotes awe
- 15 times in the NT; 8 times in 1 Timothy
- a particular manner of life; your conduct in relation to God; how you behave because of what you believe

## 1 Timothy 6:3-10

- Godlessness and its results (6:3-5)
- Godliness and its result (6:6-8)
- The danger of wanting riches (6:9-10)

## The Danger of Wanting Riches

- Ex. 20:17—“You shall not covet . . . anything that belongs to your neighbor.”
- Wealth becomes an idol. It takes God’s place, resulting in departure from the faith (6.10).
- Galatians 5:19-21 lists the deeds of the flesh & says those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God (Rom. 1:29; Eph. 5:5).

## The Danger of Wanting Riches

- Luke 8:14—the “seed that fell among thorns” represents those who “go on their way and are choked with worries and riches and pleasures of this life and bring no fruit to maturity.”

## The Good Confession

- Salvation—“If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved, for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation” (Romans 10:9-10).

## The Good Confession

- Obedience to God’s command to confess Him before men (Mt. 10:32-33).
- Confession confirms your decision; helps with doubt later.
- It makes you accountable to others. Helps you practice what you profess.
- It serves as a witness to others.

## The Good Confession

- Jesus made His confession at the expense of His life (6:13). Our confession could result in persecution as well, but we should still follow Jesus' example.

## God & His Attributes

- Giver of life to all (6:13)
- The blessed & only Sovereign (6:15)
- King of kings & Lord of lords. (6:15)
- The only One Who possesses immortality (6:16)

## God & His Attributes

- Dweller in unapproachable light (6:16)
- Invisible (6:16)
- Worthy of honor & eternal dominion (6:16)
- Provider of all things to enjoy (6:17)

## It's possible to be rich & godly.

- See that wealth is God's gift (6:17).
- Use wealth for God's glory—be generous & quick to share (6:18).
- Store up spiritual treasure (6:19).

## REMINDERS

1. Respect authority.
2. Don't expect special privileges.
3. Seek sound teaching that promotes godliness & leads to contentment.
4. Don't make wealth an idol.
5. Confess your faith and live up to that confession.