



## The Bible and the **CIVIL** War

-- Matthew 7:12, Colossians 3:11, Titus 2:9-10, 1 Peter 2:18-19

## What Is Clearly **CONDEMNED**

- Man-stealing, racially-based slavery is expressly condemned in both the Old and New Testaments (Exodus 21:16, 1 Timothy 1:10).
- **ABUSE** of any one individual by any other, regardless of their status in society, is detestable to God and condemned (Eph. 6:9).

## What Is Often **MISUNDERSTOOD**

- In first century Israel, the word “slavery” identified many working relationships that were nothing like the slavery of Colonial America.
- The word “slavery” often described the relationship between an **EMPLOYEE** and an **EMPLOYER**

## How to Act at **WORK**

- The way you interact with your boss declares something about Jesus Christ and His gospel.
- The instruction in today’s text is an undeniable call to engage in our work as humble servants (Mark 10:45)

## **SPIRITUAL Slavery**

- Today's text is a fitting description of how we, as slaves of Christ, are to respond to His lordship over us (Ephesians 6:5).
- Debt-based slavery on earth provides unique insights into our spiritual enslavement to our Master, Jesus Christ (Romans 6:22)
- There are only two types of people in the world: slaves of **SIN** headed for death, and slaves of **CHRIST** who are truly free (Rom. 6:16; 2 Peter 3:9; Gal. 5:1; 2 Peter 2:19, 3:9; John 8:34-36).
- True freedom has nothing to do with our status in the world, and everything to do with our status in Christ.

## **New IDENTITY in Christ**

- The fact that the Bible gives instructions regarding unholy circumstances does not mean it endorses those circumstances.
- Today's text indicates that slaves on earth can give every bit as much glory to God as presidents and kings (Ephesians 6:7-8).
- If God can use a cross to show His glory, then He can use slavery to bless His people and bring glory to His name.
- If you are in Christ, then you are defined by your **SAVIOR** not by your **CIRCUMSTANCES**
- Today's text affirms that believers in Christ can, by God's power, endure even the worst circumstances and make good of them for their own good and the glory of God.