



# EPHESIANS 6:5-9

“GRACE AT WORK”

FEBRUARY 1, 2026

## OPENING

### Ice Breaker (Choose One) - 5-10 minutes

- Have you had a boss (or employee) who deeply shaped the way you view work? How?
- When you think of your daily work (paid or unpaid), what emotions come most naturally: joy, stress, boredom, pride, frustration, purpose?

### Read the Text Together: Ephesians 6:5-9

Read Ephesians 6:5-9 aloud together. Listen for:

- repeated references to “the Lord”
- the tone of seriousness
- what Paul says to both workers and those in authority

## SUMMARY

In Ephesians 6:5-9, Paul addresses one of the most challenging parts of the “household codes” — instructions for slaves and masters in the Greco-Roman world. Pastor Tom emphasized that Paul is not defending slavery, but speaking into a broken social reality while planting gospel seeds that would ultimately undermine slavery itself. Paul does something radical for his time: he addresses slaves directly as moral agents made in God’s image, and he holds masters accountable to the authority of Christ. The message argues that the gospel transforms relationships from the inside out—by establishing human dignity, equality in Christ, and accountability before God. Then Pastor Tom applied the passage to today’s workplace: employees and employers alike are called to live under the lordship of Jesus. Work is not divided into “secular” and “spiritual.” Instead, all work becomes sacred service when done in faith. The main thrust of the passage is this:

**Whether worker or boss, we ultimately serve the Lord Christ.**

## DISCUSSION

## Observation Questions

- What repeated phrase appears throughout the passage? Look for how often Paul references “the Lord.”
- How does Paul command servants/workers to serve in verse 5?
- What does Paul warn against in verses 6 and 9?
- Who will ultimately reward good work?
- What reason does Paul give for how masters are to treat workers?



This document can be used for either personal or group reflection.

Group facilitator: Please feel empowered to use only the questions that are helpful for the context of your group.

## Interpretation &amp; Theological Reflection

- Why do you think Paul addresses both slaves and masters rather than only condemning slavery outright?
- Pastor Tom argued that Paul’s approach is not political revolution but gospel transformation. What are the strengths of that approach? What tensions does it raise?
- What does “fear and trembling” mean in this context? How is it different from terror or abuse?
- What does Paul mean by serving “with a sincere heart” and “from the heart”?
- How does the gospel destroy the idea that some people are more valuable than others?
- How does this passage challenge modern workplace dynamics?

## Application Questions

- Where do you most struggle to view your work as “service to the Lord” rather than service to people?
- Are there ways you mentally divide your life into “spiritual things” and “real life responsibilities”?
- What would it look like for your daily work to become an act of worship?
- Where are you tempted to become bitter, lazy, cynical, or resentful at work?
- What would change if you truly believed Christ sees every unseen act of faithfulness?

- In what ways might you unintentionally “threaten” others under your authority (pressure, manipulation, intimidation, fear-based leadership)? What does it look like to lead with dignity, respect, and fairness as someone under Christ’s authority?
- How does remembering Christ as our Redeemer reshape the way we treat people in workplaces and systems?

### Closing Prayer

#### Praise

- Thank God that Jesus is Lord over every part of life, including work.
- Praise God that Christ redeems not only souls but everyday labor.

#### Confession

- Laziness, bitterness, dishonesty, or “eye-service”; pride, harshness, or misused authority.
- Ways you have treated people as obstacles rather than image-bearers.

#### Requests

- Ask God for integrity and diligence at work; humility and respect in authority structures.
- Ask for strength to work “from the heart,” not for approval.
- Ask God to make your work a platform for witness and love.
- Pray that the gospel would shape your attitudes toward coworkers, employees, supervisors, and responsibilities.
- Pray for our church to model dignity, fairness, unity, and mutual concern across social and economic distinctions.

### Optional Take-Home Reflection

- What is one specific way you can serve Christ through your work this week — with sincerity, integrity, and goodwill?

