

***Of Slaves and Masters***

Ephesians 6:5-9

Pastor John Sloan

**Introduction:** In his letter to the Galatians, the Apostle Paul made it clear that there are to be no distinctions in equality when it comes to those in Christ. "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female," he says, "for you are all one in Christ Jesus ." But if that's the case, then how could Paul instruct slaves in the book of Ephesians to "obey [their] earthly masters with fear and trembling" (6:5)?

***Three Explanations on the Bible and Slavery*****01.****02.****03.**

1. How was slavery in the first century Greco-Roman world different than slavery in American history? Why is it dangerous to downplay either?
2. How were slaves, by obeying their earthy masters, "doing the will of God" (v.6)?
3. What would you say to a person who asked, "Why didn't Paul tell slaves to revolt?"
4. What are some common (unhelpful) responses that people (read: we) often offer to those who are suffering? How can that advice be harmful?
5. How do you tend to respond to suffering in your life? What does a gospel-driven response look like?
6. How do trials often point us to the truest freedom?