

Capitalism, Justice and The Love of God Pt. 2

KJV James 2:14 What doth it profit, my **brethren**, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?

15 If a **brother or sister** be naked, and destitute of daily food,

16 And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?

James tells us faith expresses itself by love and justice!

KJV Galatians 5:6 For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.

Circumcision was a sign of being in covenant relationship with God through nationality!

Circumcision determined if a man was a brother in the faith or not!

Circumcision determined who got **Love and Justice!**

Paul tells us our relationship with Christ is not based on nationality, race or class but faith that expresses itself through love!

Colonial Christianity determines who has rights and privileges in US!

1 Timothy 6:1 All who are under the yoke of slavery should consider their masters worthy of full respect, so that God's name and our teaching may not be slandered. (NIV)

This was one of the **main** verses used by Plantation Owners, Slave Masters, Colonialist Preachers & White Supremacists to prove slavery is God's plan and the Black Man is inferior to the white man.

This is also one of the scriptures use by people of color to prove Christianity is a White Man's religion and was never meant for the Black man to be a part of! **Both mindsets are WRONG!**

The Word of God is the most powerful and persuasive force on earth; it has always been abused (**purposely misinterpreted**) by evil men who seek to **subvert justice** and rule the world!

Jesus addressed this issue head on over 2000 years ago!

Matthew 15:1 Then came to Jesus scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying,

2 Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread.

3 But he answered and said unto them, *Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?*

Notice the misinterpretation and application of God's Word.

The **scribes and pharisees** were the sect of religious Jews that held tightly to **The Oral Law**.

The **Oral Law** was the tradition passed down during Jesus ministry.

These are the traditions Jesus is talking about here!

These teachers had the people following **traditions** rather than The Word of God!

They were concerned about a man washing his hands before he ate!

They even said, "*Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread*". (Matt 15:2)

It was a tradition of the elders, not God!

Jesus pushes back and says, "*Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?*" (Matt 15:3)

Then Jesus gives them an example:

Matthew 15:4 For example, God said, 'Honor your father and your mother' and 'Whoever curses father or mother must be put to death.'
5 But you say that whoever tells his father or mother, 'I have given to God whatever support you might have received from me,'

What the Oral Tradition did was cancel out God's commandment for children to take care of their parents financially when they needed it!

Again, **honor** means financial blessing, not words of praise!

The Oral tradition allowed them to say the money they were to honor their parents with is **Corban** "dedicated to God" so they could keep it.

Notice what they did, they used their (traditional) interpretation of scripture to cancel out **Justice and The Love of God!**

Doing right by their parents in the eyes of God!

Back to our scripture on slaves and slavery in 1 Timothy 6:1-6

ESV 1 Timothy 6:1 Let all who are under a yoke as bondservants regard their own masters as worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and the teaching may not be reviled.

2 Those who have believing masters must not be disrespectful on the ground that they are brothers; rather they must serve all the better since those who benefit by their good service are believers and beloved. Teach and urge these things.

3 If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness,

4 he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions,

5 and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain.

6 But godliness with contentment is great gain...

First, **slavery** has existed from the beginning of time and exists today! It's not **exclusive** to The Hebrews in Egypt or the Blacks in America.

There were several reasons a person might be a slave:

- 1. Extreme poverty**
- 2. Prisoner of war**
- 3. Criminal**
- 4. Pay off debt**

Job was a just man who owned slaves and he himself said:

Job 31:13 "If I have denied justice to any of my slaves, whether male or female, when they had a grievance against me,

14 what will I do when God confronts me? What will I answer when called to account?

15 Did not he who made me in the womb make them? Did not the same one form us both within our mothers?

The apostle Paul was an ex-pharisee and the son of a Pharisee (Acts 23:6). He was trained to interpret God's will from **both** The Written and Oral Law.

In **1 Tim 6** Paul addresses **slaves** that become born-again how they should act—with respect towards their masters.

It's important also to mention that some people willingly became slaves for a period of time to work off debt or as a type of indentured servant.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ does what no other religion can, it brings people together from every walk of life!

It thrusts people together—the rich and poor, black and white, educated and non-educated, gay and straight, democrat and republican!

Forcing us to learn from scripture, talk and work out how to live together in peace.

Paul doesn't stop there (**which is where many Plantation Owners stopped**) Paul says the born-again masters have a responsibility to God and their slaves.

Paul says they are **not to despise them** (treat them less than a man)!

The apostle Paul says both the **slave and the master** must remember they are **now brothers in Christ Jesus!**

The Blood of Jesus has changed the spiritual STATUS of both, not their natural status, at least not yet! (2 Cor 5:17)

The Book of Philemon sandwiched between **Titus & Hebrews** with only **1 chapter** and **25 verses** is a powerful book not to be overlooked!

In it Paul tells of meeting a slave named Onesimus whose name means “profitable & useful” Paul gets him saved and loves him as a son, Paul sends Onesimus back to his master Philemon with a letter and says “*sending Onesimus back to you is like sending a part of me*”.

Paul tells Philemon (The Master) to treat Onesimus like a brother, not a slave and strongly encourages Philemon to set Onesimus free as a display of **justice and The Love of God.**

The apostle Paul is **not** a racist that advocates slavery and neither is The Christianity the white mans religion.

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A slave master that is Spirit filled would see their slaves as brothers and sister, not animals or objects to be raped, beaten, lynched, overworked and under fed.

Any Plantation owner who treated their slaves in this way was either ignorant of The scriptures or complicit in the **colonialization** and **domination** of the African American people and any other people group.

Human Trafficking, Domestic Servitude, Force Marriage and Child Labor are all forms of Slavery and creations of man, not God.

All for pleasure & profit and absent Justice and The Love of God!

ESV Exodus 21:20 "When a man strikes his slave, male or female, with a rod and the slave dies under his hand, he shall be avenged.

Deuteronomy 24:7 "If a man is found stealing one of his brothers of the people of Israel, and if he treats him as a slave or sells him, then that thief shall die. So you shall purge the evil from your midst.

KJV John 8:36 **If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.**

After salvation we are all slaves of Jesus Christ and brothers and sisters in The Family of God!

ESV 1 John 4:20 If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.

KJV Acts 17:26 God has made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth!