

Discussion Questions

The Bible and Slavery (How to be One)

Ephesians 6:5-9

(Who is your favorite “world changer”? What about them inspires you and why?)

- Are there any passages in the Bible that you find particularly hard to swallow?
- What do you do when what Scripture seems to say appears to contradict what you know or love about God?
- Can you think of examples in your own life where you have seen people manipulate Scripture to fulfill their own agendas? How did that impact or affect the people around them?
- Can you think of examples when you have seen people “rightly handling the word of truth?” How did that impact or affect the people around them?

We live in a culture that tells us being the master is far better than being the slave. Yet Jesus and Paul, and many other followers of Christ, taught otherwise. They taught that it is better to be the slave! This sermon was all about how the power that really changes the world is a servant heart that is willing to risk everything for the sake of love; that’s God dream: Jesus.

In Philippians 2:1-11, Paul instructs the Philippians on how to practice following the Servant of all—Jesus:

“So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

- When you read this passage what sticks out? What do you feel the Spirit calling you to?
- Is there anything you would like to confess to the Lord?
- Are there any changes you’d like to invite God to make in your life?
- Is there anything you’d like to do that could allow the Servant of All to serve others in and through you more freely?

Jesus is the Servant—the Slave—of ALL, and He joyfully serves us.

- Take a few moments to reflect on all the ways Jesus has served you, in the last few days, months, years, throughout all your life.
- What stirs in your heart as you meditate on His heart towards you? Is there any way you’d like to respond to His loving kindness towards you? If so, take a moment to respond to Him, however you feel led.

** These questions were created by Kimberly Weynen*