

HOMEGROUP QUESTIONS¹

GENERAL

1. Taking verse 17 into account as well, and considering that the word “Masters” is a translation of the same word for “Lord”, count how many times “Lord” appears in these verses. What does that say about what Paul is trying to communicate here?
2. For each of us it will be different, but how do these verses all together challenge our modern ideas of freedom and where fullness of life is found?
3. Motivations are really important. Have we considered the motivations (reward on the one hand, justice and retribution on the other) Paul gives to Slaves to help them? Do we ever motivate ourselves in the workplace in this same way? Is it fair to apply these motivations more widely to marriages, family life, church etc?
4. What difference does knowing such motivations make to what we expect to get out of the present life?
5. What impact would it have in the world if, within the structures that existed in the economic/trade world today, workers worked with integrity as though serving the Lord, and bosses treated their workers the way they would want to be treated because they know they also have a boss in heaven?
6. Did people understand the idea of an ethical box made of principles on each side? Can someone explain?
7. The bible doesn't say a great deal directly about the way societies are to structure themselves in terms of work/trade/economics, however it is important to think about and we can draw principles from scripture to guide us in wisdom. What principles can we glean from these verses that will help us build a clearer box?

¹ I have tried to focus more on authority, submission/obedience, freedom ideas in general as they hopefully get to the heart of the matter and each person can apply their own specific applications as necessary.

Do try to focus on questions 1-5 first as these address us more personally at a motivational level, before moving to 4 and 5 which look more generally at principles and wisdom for how societies should structure themselves and how we can make godly decisions in difficult situations. I realise that for some these latter questions may be very pressing and relevant as well.