

Sermon Discussion

10 October 2021

Read Titus 2:9-10

Dig Deeper

Since slaves were part of the Greek household, it is quite possible that the false teachers' disruption of Cretan households (1:11) accounts for the kind of **disrespectful behaviour** among slaves implied by this set of instructions. Something similar had occurred in Ephesus (see 1 Timothy 6:1-2).

The response asked of slaves is to be submissive or **"to subject oneself"** (*also addressed to slaves in 1 Peter 2:18*). The same verb is used for Christians in other situations as well (*Ephesians 5:21; 1 Corinthians 16:16; Romans 13:1*). Therefore, what Paul asks for is not unique to the slave situation but is a response for all Christians under authority as part of their duty and responsibility to the one in authority.

In v. 10, Paul uses the word **"to adorn."** It's the same word found in 1 Timothy 2:9 where Paul asks that the Ephesian women not concentrate on outward appearance but adorn themselves with what is fitting for godly women...or good deeds.

Considering Paul's argument, this cannot be an adornment apart from content but rather must be a clear presentation of the gospel that is enhanced by the slaves' behaviour. The slaves' motivation is to **make the gospel as attractive as possible** for those around them. While this may seem distasteful to some modern ears, it does show the emphasis Paul placed on the gospel and its effect on individuals

1. How is an employee similar to being a slave? How is it different?
2. Why does the Bible not condemn slavery? How would you answer this criticism from a sceptic?
3. How does being pleasing in our service demonstrate the grace of God?
4. How does being a good servant adorn the gospel? How have you seen this demonstrated in a secular workplace?
5. How is the responsibility of a servant (employee) to live with integrity different from that of a master (employer)? How is it the same? Which is easier to fulfil?

Application & Prayer

- When you consider the attitudes and actions Paul asks of Christians in these verses, do you think and act this way when you labour as a parent, serving at church, or at work? If not, what do you need to do?
- What do you think it means to “adorn the doctrine of God” found in v. 10? What specifically could you do to show this adornment?
- Reflect on the implications of Titus 2:9-10 for your own life today. Consider what you have learned that might lead you to praise God, repent of sin, and trust in His gracious promises.