

# Power relationships – how to behave in them

## Ephesians 6:5-9

Erik Pattison – Lighthouse Baptist Church, Sunday 11 August 2019.

- Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ KJV Eph 6:5
  - Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ NIV Eph 6:5
- Power: The important element in slavery based relationships
  - Anywhere where Power is unequal between people
  - You are not formally a slave to anyone
    - But you are subject in some way to other people
    - The formal difference between French CITIZENS and British SUBJECTS is not so great in reality
  - This is PRACTICAL teaching - what is REAL not formal?
  - Examples
    - Filling out an assessment form for Mum's Home Care
    - Signing Emmanuel Adeyemi's Passport Application
    - Anyone who takes on a mortgage or other debt - Prov 22:7
    - Work relationships - the most obvious here
- How to cope with people in power
  - Remember they are human
    - "According to the flesh"
    - A temporary situation
    - Basically equal in God's sight
    - Flawed and inadequate - sometimes sinful
  - Serve them as you would serve Jesus
    - With Fear and Trembling
      - A fairly common phrase
        - Phobos and tromos
      - The fear connected with dealing with God
        - Phil 2:12-13 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose. NIV
      - The trembling comes from a sense of seriousness
        - Isa 66:2 These are the ones I look on with favor: those who are humble and contrite in spirit, and who tremble at my word.
    - In singleness of heart
      - Honestly
      - no pretence
      - no hypocrisy
      - expanded in verse 6
    - Wholehearted (With goodwill) = No pretence
      - Even when the job seems pointless!
    - Power relationship are riddled with hypocrisy
      - We pretended to work and they pretended to pay us

- **How to cope with power**
  - **Do the same for your slaves!!**
    - **Your Status**
      - NOT to make you feel validated or important
      - For the work that needs doing
      - For the well being of your employees
      - Your position means nothing to Christ
        - No favouritism
    - **Remember that you too answer to Jesus**
      - Fear and trembling
      - Singleness of heart
      - So many people become lazy when they get promotion
      - You are yourself a slave to Jesus
      - Remember that people who do the work often know how to do it best
    - + - **Resist the temptation to become a bully**
      - No threats
      - Not even the subtle ones
      - Performance reviews? can get nasty
    - **See above**
      - Remember they are human
      - Serve them as you would serve Jesus
        - Submit to one another 5:21
        - Treat them as church members even if they aren't