



1 Timothy 6:1-2a

Be a Benefactor for Christ

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Confusion Over Slavery

Ancient Near East: Normally people were slaves due to economic problems, warfare, or social status.

United States: Our history with slavery was predicated on a race of men alleged as being inferior to other men.

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Slaves: Honor Your Masters

1 Timothy 6:1

All who are under the yoke as slaves are to regard their own masters as worthy of all honor so that the name of God and our doctrine will not be spoken against.

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Be a Benefactor!

1 Timothy 6:2a

Those who have believers as their masters must not be disrespectful to them because they are brethren, but must serve them all the more, because those who partake of the benefit are believers and beloved.

1. Slaves receive the benefit?
2. Masters receive the benefit?

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Paul's Reversal

Culture: Those of higher status are benefactors for those of less status and are **rewarded by society**.

Biblical: Believers are benefactors to each other and are **rewarded by God**.

Applications

1. Christians must learn to forego the desire for status in this world to serve Christ and His people.
2. We should know that being a "benefactor" to our brothers and sisters is service to Christ Himself.

Renounce the Desire for Status

Luke 9:47-48

But Jesus, knowing what they were thinking in their heart, took a child and stood him by His side, 48 and said to them, "Whoever receives this child in My name receives Me, and whoever receives Me receives Him who sent Me; **for the one who is least among all of you, this is the one who is great.**"

Receive the Kingdom as a Child

Mark 10:14-15

But when Jesus saw this, He was indignant and said to them, "Permit the children to come to Me; do not hinder them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. 15 "Truly I say to you, **whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it at all.**"

Christ: Benefactor Par Excellence

Mark 10:43-45

But it is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant; 44 and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all. 45 “**For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.**”

Be a Benefactor for Christ!

Luke 22:25-26

And He said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who have authority over them are called ‘**Benefactors.**’ 26 “But it is not this way with you, but the one who is the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like the servant.