

Verses: 1 Timothy 6:1 ESV

Let all who are under a yoke as bondservants regard their own masters as worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and the teaching may not be reviled.

Slaves were commonplace at the time of Paul's writings, comprising up to a third of the Roman population of the day. A bondservant was a slave who had been freed, but who chose voluntarily, out of love for his master, to devote the remainder of his life to serve him – it was a permanent position. He put his life in the hands of his master as he became his property.

Jesus, our King and Master is our example of a bondservant, as He voluntarily gave His life in service to His Father, to free us from being slaves to sin. We were under a yoke of slavery to sin, but His act of selfless service and love set us free to be able to serve Him. We are no longer under a yoke of slavery to sin but are free to choose how we will live. We can choose to go back into sin, or live a life of being yoked to Jesus, learning from Him, growing in godliness as we walk in the righteousness He purchased for us, and experiencing the abundant life He has available to us.

When we understand the depth of love the Father has for us and the extent of the sacrifice Jesus endured to set us free, we cannot but offer ourselves unreservedly in service to Him. His overwhelming love melts the hardest heart, causing it to surrender as a love slave to our humble Servant-King Jesus.

Our devotion to Jesus should reflect in our relationships to our employers, spouses, children, and all whom we encounter. So shall the name of God be glorified in our communities and his teaching not be reviled.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you for the example of Jesus, and thank you for your incredible, irresistible love for me. I am so grateful that Jesus died for me and that you chose me to be your child! Help me to lay down my life daily in service of you and help me to glorify your name in my family, workplace, and community, so that people can come to know Jesus and be saved, in Jesus' name. Amen.