

<b>Series</b>	Gamma 17 – Study 10
<b>Reference</b>	1 Tim 6
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Good evening brothers and sisters. Welcome back to another episode of Gamma. Today we are going to look at study 10, which is 1-Timothy chapter 6. This is the last chapter in a first book of Paul to his protegee, who is Timothy.

In chapter six, there are four sections which we want to be looking at.

- 1) Relationship between Slaves and Masters vv 1-2
- 2) Characteristics of False Teachers and Teachings vv 3-5
- 3) The Christian and Money vv6-10; 17-19
- 4) The Challenge of True Discipleship 11-16; 20-21

#### RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SLAVES AND MASTERS vv 1-2

1 Timothy 6:1-2 (ESV) Let all who are under a yoke as bondservants regard their own masters as worthy of all honour, so that the name of God and the teaching may not be reviled. 2 Those who have believing masters must not be disrespectful on the ground that they are brothers; rather they must serve all the better since those who benefit by their good service are believers and beloved.

So the word here is bondservants. In Greek it is Doulos. And here when you talk about bondservants or slaves, these are two senses here which we must be aware of. It can be translated as bondservant or slaves. The trouble is that if you translate it as slaves, it gives the idea of the slaves of the deep south American situation, where they actually kept in almost inhumane situations. And they are slaves for life captured from Africa, Shanghai to the deep south and they die and live as slaves. In Paul's time we are talking about bondservants. They are a little bit different from that. Bondservants because either they were captured in war, they had no money to pay off the debt, so therefore they sold themselves off to a period of servitude, a different social circumstances. It is like bankruptcy. If you have got bankruptcy, you serve for a period of time to earn off your debts or you voluntarily submit in exchange for economic security, because they are so poor, they can't earn a living. So they might as well join some rich man's house and work for the keep.

So therefore there's a definitive period and they're not slaves for life. So they were treated a lot better than the deep south American slaves.

1 Timothy 6:1-2 (ESV) Let all who are under a yoke as bondservants regard their own masters as worthy of all honour, so that the name of God and the teaching may not be reviled.

So if you were a bondservant, you will not to serve grudgingly. You are to serve your masters and give them all the respect and honour, and the thing is respect and honour is given is not contingent on whether the master deserved it or not. Whether it is good master or bad master, cruel master loving master, it is not contingent on whether the master deserved it or not. And if you look at a pattern of scripture, it is like that. In Ephesians chapter 5,

Eph 5: 22 Wives submit to husbands as to the Lord

It doesn't matter whether he is a good husband, bad husband, derelict husband.

**Eph 5: 25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church**

Again non-contingent on how their wives treated them or respected them.

**Eph 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord,**

Irrespective of what kind of good parents are lousy parents.

**Eph 6: 5 Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ**

Now, why is it that in real life we treat each other base as a reciprocal response to how the other person treats us. That's how we actually operate, but in the gospel is completely different for two reasons. One, an understanding of who we are. None of us deserves to be loved. We are all under the foot of the cross. At the foot of the cross, we are all equal. So therefore we don't deserve. How we treat another person is not contingent to how they treat us, because we are non-deserving sinners. Number two, we need to trust God to judge any inequity or any evil.

**Romans 12:17 Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honourable in the sight of all.**

So how you treat your wife, how you put your husband, how you treat your parents, how you treat your bondservants, you have to do what is honourable in the sight of when everybody looks at it, it is going to be good. It's going to be honourable.

**18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. 19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord**

So therefore we trust God to judge and that is why we treat each other with honour and it is non-contingent on how the other person treats us.

The other motive,

**1 Timothy 6:1-2 (ESV) Let all who are under a yoke as bondservants regard their own masters as worthy of all honour, so that the name of God and the teaching may not be reviled.**

So therefore we are actually treating our masters with honour, so that the gospel will not be reviled. When people look that is a good servant, irrespective of how the master treated him, so that that person is representative of a person who has been transformed by the love of Christ in the gospel.

Let's look on,

**2. Those who have believing masters must not be disrespectful on the ground that they are brothers;**

Now, here you have a situation where you got a master and a slave and perhaps they are in the same church and because the slave or the bondservant his master is a Christian, he is also a brother in Christ. So therefore they might treat the other person with that kind of respect, simply because they are both brothers in the church, there are supposed to be equal. But he is saying is that those were believing masters must not be disrespectful on the grounds that they are brothers. Instead, the master is a brother

and because you are serving your brother you should actually work harder than if he was not. So that's an impact of the faith in their fellowship and not only that

they must serve all the better since those who benefit by their good service are believers and beloved.

Actually it should be better translated by their kind service. And this sentence is to remind the masters that the slaves are ultimately not slaves but fellow Christians whose labours are actually an act of kindness to the boss. All right. Now, Paul writes to Philemon about the runaway slave called Onesimus and he says,

Philemon 1:16 .. no longer as a bondservant but more than a bondservant, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So therefore slaves, bondservants and masters are actually brothers and therefore they should treat each other as such.

Now there are claims that the Bible doesn't prohibit slavery, Old Testament, there are statutes on how you govern the treatment of slaves and people justify especially in deep south America that the Bible does not prohibit slavery and their justification are;

- 1) Slaves do not have souls.
- 2) African slaves are basically having the curse of in Ham in Genesis 9:25 which is not true.
- 3) Scripture does not explicitly prohibit slavery. There isn't a sentence that says that.
- 4) God ordains slavery, like marriage, and problems exist only because of poor administration, like a poor marriage.
- 5) Slavery is the stabilizing influences on society. While if you are an owner or a master, of course slavery is stabilising because you earn profit.
- 6) Slavery does not violate the spirit of the gospel, which is entirely untrue as well.

Now, what is the biblical injunction against slavery? First of all,

- Paul never endorses slavery, you will never see any of his letters that he endorses slavery.
- Paul hints at its evil mentioning it in a list of sinners - enslavers (1 Tim 1:10) He mentions enslavers as one of the evil.
- Masters never told to demand submission in the Bible.
- Eph 6:10 Slave and Masters are equal both have one Master Jesus
  
- Gospel has broken down social barriers Gal 3:22 ...no more slave and free, no more Jew, no more gentile. So therefore the gospel has broken down all social barriers.
- Paul encouraged slaves to gain freedom if possible (1 Cor 7:21), which means he is against slavery.
- Early church didn't deal with it. They didn't have a revolution to overthrow slavery simply because they viewed Christ return as too imminent to deal with slavery. But nevertheless the seeds against slavery had been laid down in the Bible so much so that 100s of years later on you can see how God's church was in the forefront of overturning slavery both in America and also England and all of the rest of the world.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF FALSE TEACHERS AND TEACHINGS vv 3-5

1 Timothy 6:2-3 Teach and urge these things. 3 If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness,

So basically here is Hetero-Didaskalos, which is hetero which is different and didaskalos is teaching. So anyone with false teaching or different teaching, different teaching is false teaching and they have two features. It does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ, which means it is not biblical and the teaching that accords with godliness, which mean the teaching doesn't produce a God-like life. A life that honours God in reverence of God. There are two features of that, and you can see this recently there was a big hoo-ha in South Korea when the Shincheonji Church of Jesus Christ had about 36% of all the cases of corona viruses last year and that actually catapulted this church into the forefront. And this church is actually a cult. If will look at it. They've got a Pastor Lee Man Hee and he is saying that, it is recorded in the Book of Revelation that there are 144,000 slaves and 12 tribes of Israel, and only the Shincheonji Church members are part of the 144,000. Again, a heresy and here is basically a testimony from one of his former cult members and she says,

*Shincheonji teaches you that Lee Man-hee is a god-like figure accompanied by the spirit of Jesus. You can only be saved and go to heaven by following Lee Man Hee..then only you will have wealth and honour in this world. Shincheonji forces you to lie even from the start. They don't outrightly tell you to lie, but instead they quote the Bible and they say white lies are allowed is they are for the glory of God.*

So this is how they actually use the Bible and basically distort it otherwise. Cults use mind control, public humiliation, self-incrimination, brainwashing and deep sense of paranoia of them against us. So therefore they actually sequester cult members away from mainstream church. Another wrong teaching is the Oneness Pentecostal where they teach Father, Son and Holy Spirit are all the same person manifesting in different modes. In the Old Testament, God is manifested as a Father, in the New Testament God is manifested a Son and after the resurrection he is manifested at the Holy Spirit. And this does not agree with the sound words of Jesus. John says,

**John 1:1-2 (ESV) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God.**

So there are two different persons but in the same Godhead. Now the Oneness Pentecostals believe you need to be baptized to be saved. The formula of baptism is in the name of Jesus only. You can't say Father, Son, Holy Spirit and you must speak in tongues in order be saved and they tend to be legalistic. Here is another wrong teaching, Worldwide Church of God started by Herbert Armstrong many years ago, who actually rejected the Trinity, rejected the Holy Spirit as a person and the descendants of Jacob are only found in Great Britain and the United States not in Malaysia anymore. And they practice legalism, Salvation is dependent on observing Sabbath Sunday, following Old Testament dietary laws and giving up 30% of income to church, not 10, 30%. That's why they got very rich. This is his son, Gardner Ted Armstrong, several sexual affairs in his life and later on the people who inherited this church, Joseph Tkach and his son Joseph Tkach Jr. actually wrote,

*Our flawed doctrinal understanding clouded the plain gospel of Jesus Christ and led to a variety of wrong conclusions and unscriptural practices," We have much to repent of and apologize for."*

So thank God the true gospel took over this. If you look at the current day this is a Church of Las Vegas, Ps Denise Goulet, she prophesied Trump will receive a second win, which means he will be re-elected, reenergized physically and filled with the Holy Spirit. Neither of these three things actually occurred, which means she is a false prophet.

## What are the characteristics of false teachers?

Well, they're the light, speculative and controversial words.

4 he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, 5 and constant friction among people who are deprived in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain.

Here is an example of a New Creation Church pastor on COVID-19 crisis. He stepped up on February 2020 declared we are completely protected. Why? Because Psalm 91 says,

Psalms 91:9-10 (ESV) Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place—the Most High, who is my refuge—  
10 no evil shall be allowed to befall you, no plague come near your tent.

Completely ignoring the fact that in verse

Psalms 91:15 (ESV) When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honour him.

Now, if you are going to be Bulletproof against COVID-19, you wouldn't be in trouble. Instead when you're in trouble, I will rescue him and honour him. And the funniest thing about this particular sermon was he says that the beginning of Psalm starts with the Hebrew word yord, which looks like this and it also ends with the Hebrew alphabet yord and this alphabet looks like a person's hand. And so therefore this Psalm is about the hand of God protecting his people. I don't think it looks like a hand. I think it looks like chicken thigh. Anyway Kent Hughes who is basically a theologian has testified is talking to people involved the wrong teaching.

*I have spent endless hours with such people, who cannot or will not grasp the plain meaning of a sentence or a paragraph in its context but rather fix on a word or sound bite and give it a definition that defies lexicons, history, and logic. Nothing dissuades them. Nothing informs them. They understand nothing—and they enjoy it!*

There is a description of him interacting with false teachers. Sometimes they go into false teaching because the desire to solve theological problems. Here is a problem with Gred Boyd and Carl Pinnock, who put up this idea of open theism that God does not know what a future and it actually depends on the free will of actions of men and God comes to know of events as they take place. He learns something for what transpires, which means the people who are only sovereign in the world are the free actions of men and God is always reacting to them, which basically is an insult on the sovereign power of God.

So remember the false teacher who has quarrels, envy, strife, slander, these are the characteristic of false teachers. And the last one is that they think that godliness is a means of gain. And if you look at this so true today. This is Forbes ranking in 2020 at the richest pastors in the world.

Bishop David Oyedepo 150 million US dollars.

Bishop TD Jakes, \$140 million dollars

Pastor Chris Oyakhilome in Nigeria 50 million.

Joel Osteen 40 million.

They bring forward this idea of prosperity gospel. Prosperity is a by-product of obeying God's commandments. So therefore you actually be prosperous if you obey God's commandments. This is Dr

Kate Bowler who basically did a PhD in Princeton looking at a thesis on the American Prosperity Gospel. She actually believed in the prosperity gospel, wrote a whole thesis on that and one day she actually got stage four cancer and that changed her outlook completely and she wrote another book that everything happens for a reason and other lies I've been told. She describes the features of the prosperity gospel, why it's appealing. Why?

- Believers wanted an escape: from poverty, failing health, and the feeling that their lives were leaky buckets. They need to have some control.
- Explanation for the problem of evil. Why do we leave in a world of the sovereign God and yet there is evil.
- It guarantees that faith will always make a way.

So that's why false teaching like prosperity gospel flourishes in all parts of the world even in among poor people. Why? Because it gives them a measure of control to escape from failing health, poverty and difficult situation.

Book of Mormons, another cult.

*“if ye keep my commandments, ye shall prosper in the land,  
88 of Smith’s 112 divine revelations are concerned with economic, not spiritual matters.*

So here we have got people motivated by money, godliness as a means of gain.

## THE CHRISTIAN AND MONEY vv 6-10, 17-19

Paul tells Timothy the opposite. Godliness is not a means of gain. Godliness with contentment is great gain. He modifies the current thinking of the time. Godliness with contentment which means one has to be satisfied with one's circumstances and the reason is that if we brought nothing into the world we can't take anything out. If we have food and clothing with these we shall be content. So basically what he is saying is that the minimum standard is basically having adequate nourishment and shelter, is good enough. We shouldn't be striving for something else because that will bring us into problems.

I remember just last week we had Vincent Yee share with us at the COVID-19 Survivors Club and he told us of the scary situation when he was forced to be a Sungai Buloh where 40 people with COVID-19 everybody coughing and he says, and they forced him to confront the reality of life and deal with his anxieties and all the other problems he had in life. And he actually said these words,

“They wash you when you come into the world and they wash your body when you leave”. It is the same. When come in and we were nothing and we leave with nothing.

And that's exactly why the pursuits of godliness for material gain actually doesn't make sense. If what we have to eat and drink would be good enough.

The danger of the love of money is that

**1 Tim 6: 9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.**

So therefore it is this constant urge and desire and hunger for money that actually distracts us from

godliness and people have fallen away from their faith. Martin Luther describes this clearly.

*“If money becomes one’s master and not the servant, he sinks deeper and deeper into greed, he gets farther and farther away from the Word of God, and finally he becomes completely hostile to it.”*

It can be so bad that you not only become apathetic after that, you move away from fear and actually you become anti-faith, antichrist as it were. That is what the effect money can do. And you can actually see this, David Yonggi Cho who was basically the pastor of the largest church in the world in Korea, ministering for 50 years and he is actually found guilty of money, largest church in the world and he is still embezzling \$14 million, put into jail for that and down south in Singapore we've got this chap who is a pastor of the City Harvest Church count guilty of 15 million Singapore dollar fraud. Went to jail for two years and four months and you look at his picture when he comes out of jail, completely white. That's what jail will do to you. He says, I'm sorry for everything that has happened. Why? It is the temptation, the desire for money.

So if you are rich, what is the danger? Paul says,

**1 Tim 6: 17 As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.**

Just because you are rich, you look at his COVID-19 crisis, a lot of rich people dying of COVID-19. You might be rich, but they won't even have a bed for you in Subang Medical Centre or Sunway Medical Centre or Sungai Buloh because the numbers are so big. It is uncertain. Richest may not save. For a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven is harder than for a camel to go through an eye of the needle Jesus says.

Martin Luther says possessions belong in your hands, not in your heart.

The moment money enters your heart it destroys you. The love of money. You need to be able to use it, nothing wrong with money, but to use it for the glory of God.

Now seek true treasure. So the people who are rich that to do good, to be rich in good works to be generous and ready to share, which means money belongs in your hands. If it is in your hand, you are then put in position where you could use it to do good works, to be generous, to be ready to share. So by doing so, you release it and when you release it, you are actually storing up treasure for them as a good foundation for the future. We think if we keep it in our hearts, we sow it for ourselves, no you can't take it with you. If you release it with your hands you are actually storing up treasure as a foundation for eternal life.

## **THE CHALLENGE OF TRUE DISCIPLESHIP vv 11-16, 20-21**

**1 Timothy 6: 11 But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. 12 Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.**

Look at the three verbs here. The overwhelming ambition in life is characterized by these three verbs, which paint two pictures, flee, pursue and fight. Flee is basically flee from these things, what are these things, flee from the love of money and instead pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness and gentleness. And this is something fairly alien to many people, right. We seem to be running in the opposite direction, the love of money makes us pursue the love of money and in effect, we are fleeing

from righteousness, godliness, faith and we only do that because we have to on a Sunday. And that is the perverse effect of life in this society, where the love of money is so deeply entrenched. We have a career trajectory, but we have no spiritual trajectory. Our challenge when we look at the letter of Paul to Timothy is that we actually have to flee from the love of money, recognize the love of money and covetousness in our lives as a cancer and how we need to flee from that. Flee means really run away from it and flee toward. You can't just run away from something, not go towards something. You need to go towards a spiritual trajectory that will bring honour to God.

Look at the gifts that God has given you, the ministry that you need to get involved with and your impact in the community. Do you actually have a five-year plan, in five years from now what am I going to be doing with my spiritual life and my ministry. Do you have a plan? If we don't, we're just circling the wagons, or having a holding pattern. It is a just to keep out spiritual life on even keel, don't get too involved, don't get too under involved. Most of us are like that and that is not how true discipleship is. True discipleship is actually a spiritual trajectory, no different from a trajectory for your career. We in our careers have business plans for promotion expansion, but the trouble is at the end of it all the happiness actually eludes us.

**Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called.**

The next metaphor is not only running is a metaphor of wrestling. Take hold, grab. When a wrestler is on top and when he grabs the guy who is basically losing, he is going to push and push until he submits and he doesn't let go. Paul is telling us we've got eternal life. We've been by called by Christ to eternal life. We have been saved at the cross. Take that reality in your life, hold onto it, do not let go, even as the devil threatens you. What motivates us to do this fleeing from the love of money, running towards the pursuit of righteousness and love in Christ and wrestling in him, is a vision of who he is, which is why he says this verse,

**1 Timothy 6: 14 to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, 16 who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honour and eternal dominion. Amen**

This is like a whole him and it is actually painting the majesty and glory of who God is. We don't flee from the love of money and have an ambition on a spiritual trajectory or we wrestle to keep God with us, simply because we have to. What motivates us is a vision of who God is and that vision is the one that puts the impulse on our steps towards him. That's why Deuteronomy chapter 10, verses 12 to 13 of previous lessons is the fear of God and the love of God propels us so that we are walking in his ways. We serve him with all our heart and our soul. We obey his commandments and in the end this is for our good.

So if you want to see the beauty of God in your life, the vision of the immortal, wonderful God, we have got to learn to worship God.

The final word.

**20 O Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you. Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called “knowledge,” 21 for by professing it some have swerved from the faith. Grace be with you.**

In the end the only thing that keeps us safe is the hope of God and the grace of God that keeps us safe



and in a godly condition, looking forward to that final day where we will be with him. May God bless you through this word. Amen.