

(Ephesians 6:5-9, NIV84)

"Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free. And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him."

I'm sure, just like me, your heart is breaking for our country. As we see stores being looted and businesses burned to the ground, we question how that response has anything to do with the outrageous abuse of authority and the senseless taking of an innocent life by rogue police officers in Minneapolis.

When earthly leaders and those in positions of authority abuse their power or position, it can result in unimaginable suffering. But make no mistake, the one behind all the suffering, death and destruction is Satan. And if you or I succumb to the temptation to repay evil with evil, in whatever circumstance, we play into the devil's hand.

Instead of giving in to outrage and anger, let us look to the Lord in faith and seek His guidance. Pray for all those in authority, that they would have wisdom how best to handle these current crises.

May the Lord grant us grace to serve all our fellow citizens with a loving heart, knowing that in doing so we are serving God.

With you as servants of Christ,
Pastor Golm

May 30

Faithfulness

The fruit of the Spirit is ... faith. Galatians 5:22

The word "faith" in the above text is better translated faithfulness-around which cluster all such attributes as dependability, trustworthiness, loyalty, and fidelity. These qualities, says Paul, are further "fruits of the Spirit".

The true believer is a man of his word. He is a man who can be trusted to do his best under any circumstances. He is a man who has won the confidence of those with whom he lives and works from day to day. He is a man who gives a day's wage for a day's work; or, if he happens to be the worker, he is a man who gives a day's work for a day's wage. In short, he can be counted on to do his duty.

The story is told of a young man who, seeking employment, came from the country to the city. With suitcase in hand, he entered the office of a successful employer and asked whether there was any opening. "No, my young man, I'm afraid there is not. Try again in a week or so", was the answer of the man at the desk. As the young man turned to leave, the lock on his suitcase came loose, and the contents of the case fell to the floor.

Among the items which fell helter-skelter to the floor was a worn copy of the Bible. When the employer's eye fastened on the Bible, he suddenly changed his mind and said: "Just a minute, young man, on second thought I believe we do have an opening."

The employer had lived long enough to know that one of the fruits of the Spirit is faithfulness, trustworthiness, reliability.

He who has found forgiveness for his sins at the foot of the cross cannot be anything but faithful. Let us pray for an ever greater measure of this splendid Christian virtue.

Oh, grant me, Lord, to do, With ready heart and willing,
Whate' er Thou shalt command, My calling here fulfilling. Amen.

(Devotion from: Daily Walk With God - Meditations for Every Day, by Herman W. Gockel)