

God Supports Slavery

5

It is a common argument for those wishing to condemn the Bible and Christians. They say the Bible supports slavery. This comes from a lack of understanding of the Bible, probably



because they have not read the Bible and just mimic arguments they have heard before.

The historical facts show that it was Christians that brought about transformation of unjust social institutions, including the abolition of slavery. The U.S. Constitution and the Declaration of Independence both set up a “republic”, not a democracy. James Madison, one of the authors of our Constitution, wrote in Federalist Paper No. 10 about the awful problem of a pure democracy, saying: “there is nothing to check the inducement to sacrifice the weaker party or the obnoxious individual.” The Bible clearly supports and lifts the weaker person; it does not enslave that person.

Despite those harboring hate for our country, the founding fathers clearly supported freedom for all; they are not the blame for the evils of slavery. Sadly, it was both whites and blacks that for the love of money and power, created the evils of slavery. Blacks sold blacks and whites sold blacks, all for satanic greed and power. This awful practice, starting in the USA in Virginia in 1619, enslaved 500,000 up to the Civil War. Colleges now falsely insanely are teaching our young people that America was founded in 1619 due to this slave issue, instead of the actual historical fact of 1776 with the “Declaration of Independence” from England.

This “slave trade from Africa” became engrained into the structure of the culture from 1440 to 1870 in North & South America. Quakers and Mennonites spoke against it but their voice was too small to be heard. It took the Civil War and the deaths of 700,000 humans (mostly whites) to keep America from breaking apart and to free black Americans.

Sadly, it took another hundred years after emancipation to get over the cultural structure of segregation. Thankfully, we see, in all but a few liberal cities, America clearly embracing equality and opportunity for all. Our founding was on the right track; why did it take so long to finally get back on that original track of liberty and justice for all? I don't suppose there is an answer to that question,

but it is something we should all reflect upon. Don't turn your back on injustice, letting someone else to right a wrong, constructively do something about.

Most of America's founders were Christians and had a Biblical worldview, so we will look at what the Bible says about slavery. If you have a problem with God over slavery, then you are free to erroneously bask in your dark abyss, falsely thinking that the Bible supports slavery. However, if you care to learn the truth, it is my hope to bring that truth forward.

The Bible presents several types of slavery; perhaps a better word might be "servitude", since "slavery" has, rightly so, such a poisonous emotional impact. There was "voluntary servitude" which helped people who could not pay their debts; it helped them get back on their feet and was not permanent. There was "voluntary permanent slavery" for those who wanted the structure for security. There was also "restitution servitude" for criminals to work off their sentences. Pagans could be made permanent slaves [Leviticus 25:44-46], as people thought that they were unbelievers and thus already slaves of their own making.

Involuntary servitude is not Biblical as is clearly stated in the Old Testament, in Exodus 21:16 *"Anyone who kidnaps someone is to be put to death, whether the victim has been sold or is still in*

the kidnapper's possession.” Also found in Deuteronomy 24:7:

“If someone is caught kidnapping a fellow Israelite and treating or selling them as a slave, the kidnapper must die. You must purge the evil from among you.”

There is no comparison of Roman era slavery and what we know about slavery in North America. Slavery in Roman times was nonracial. It was not hard labor, many slaves owned property, ran businesses & industry; they were teachers and managers. Often free men in poverty would sell themselves into slavery for a better life and economic advancement. While slavery had a structure as a social institution in the Roman civilization, it was not a God-created institution. Jesus and the New Testament authors commend compassionate treatment of slaves by masters, along with loyal obedience of slaves to their masters.

Luke tells us in 7:1-10 of the healing of the Centurions Servant / Slave; a slave we learn in verse 2 that the Centurion “valued highly”. The Centurion pulled a lot of strings to contact Jesus and have Jesus come to his house; the faith of the Centurion was strong so he said he was not worthy of the LORD Jesus, yet his caring for his servant was such that he asked Jesus to heal from a

distance. This happened and the servant was then in good health. Why would a hardened commander of one hundred Roman soldiers care about a slave? If you come to the Bible with a modern view of slavery, you would have to say the Centurion would not care if the slave lived or died. But the Centurion did indeed care very much, so slavery in the Bible has no connection to slavery in Africa, North America, nor anywhere else in the world. It is completely wrong to have a problem with God due to your modern views of slavery and falsely applying them to the Bible!

I could argue that we are all created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27), but that won't work for those who don't believe God created all of us in the first place. If you erroneously believe in evolution due to our poor education system, then might think we are all slime from the primordial soup at the beginning of the evolutionary process. Thinking this way, no wonder people treat each other so ugly. Do you not see that the evolutionary process instills hate, removes respect and inflates the attitude of "me over them". Only in the Bible do you get equality of all, no matter the race, color or gender, because we are all created in God's image!

Well, what does the Bible say about equality?
Paul's letter to the Galatians, chapter 3 verse 28:

*"There is no longer Jew or Greek,
there is no longer slave or free, there*

is no longer male or female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.”

We are all equal in God's eyes!

Take the Old testament Book of Job, chapter 31 verses 13 to 15:

“If I [Job] have denied justice to any of my servants, whether male or female, when they had a grievance against me, what will I do when God confronts me? What will I answer when called to account? Did not He [God] who made me in the womb make them? Did not the same One [God] form us both within our mothers?” (NIV)

So, we see in this Biblical text the equality between master and servant; hardly being the same situation we unfortunately found infesting North America's slave years.

Many times, in the New Testament we see the use of the word “slavery” coupled with our necessary duty; such as, Galatians 4:25 where a woman is slave to her children...what parent is not a slave to their children?

Let's look at Romans 6:16-22:

“Don’t you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves to the one you obey – whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness. I am using an example from everyday life because of your human limitations. Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness. When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.” (NIV)

Can you see that being a slave can be good or bad? If you studied Marshal Arts, you would wish to

be a slave to your master Sinisa, correct? In a marriage of equality between husband and wife, each would be blessed to be a slave to the other. The facts are that everyone is a slave to something, work, play, laziness, TV, video games, religious idols, or to God. Our modern-day problem is with the word itself; we equate it to a tragic period, the African slave trade and the on-going sinful child and sex slave trade which is on-going in the world. We need to work to break this tragic sinful use of people. To do this, we need to become slaves to God's righteousness.

Paul wrote a letter to Philemon, a slave owner in Colossae. The slave Onesimus apparently stole something from Philemon, his master and ran away. While on the run, Onesimus encounters Paul, an Apostle of Jesus Christ. How did Paul receive him?

Those wishing to condemn the Bible for supporting slavery do not know the Bible; you just wish to condemn it and slavery is the best "politically correct" emotional attack. Paul writes his plea for Onesimus:

"Your [Philemon] love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the LORD's people. Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you

ought to do, yet I prefer to appeal to you on the basis of love. It is as none other than Paul – an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus – that I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me. I am sending him – who is my very heart – back to you. I would have liked to keep him with me so that he could take your place in helping me while I am in chains for the gospel.” (Philemon 7-13 NIV)

Does this sound anything like the brutality we saw in African slavery? No! We see the Apostle Paul calling Onesimus “brother”, loving him “his very heart”, and knowing he could trust him with the most important task of the work of the Gospel of the LORD. Repeating, the Bible has a much greater equality between master and servant and is hardly the same situation we so unfortunately found infesting North America.

Since it is mostly progressives that condemn the Bible, take away the Ten Commandments, and block Christian prayer and references to Christ Jesus; let me ask everyone, which political party or faction likes to place people into groups? Answer, the Progressives. They like to separate by race,

gender/sex, color, economics, religion, likes and dislikes. They talk equality but their actions and beliefs do not support the talk. It is the grouping of humanity that has led to the world's problems. The grouping of humanity has supported and fueled the likes of Che Guevara, Castro, Hitler, Pol Pot, Stalin and Linen.

There is only one religion that does not foster the grouping on humanity...Christianity. Paul reminds us that God "gives everyone life and breath and everything else. From one man He made all the nations...so that they would seek Him..." (Acts 17:25-27) We are all created by one God in His image; no groups, no groupings, all with the same red blood.

Let's take a look at the opposite side, one of the progressive champions, *Nietzsche*, as Ravi Zacharias shares on page 98 in his wonderful book *The End of Reason*.

"In contrast to the egalitarianism that the Christian faith clearly teaches are the writings of renowned atheists against egalitarianism. Egalitarianism is not a tenet of atheism. Listen to Nietzsche: 'Equality is a lie concocted by inferior people who arrange themselves in herds to overpower those who are naturally superior to them. The morality of 'equal rights' is

herd morality, and because it opposes the cultivation of superior individuals, it leads to the corruption of the human species.”

Biblical text showing God delivered the Hebrews out of the land of slavery [Egypt] is found Exodus 13:3 and 13:14, Exodus 20:2, and the Deuteronomy verses: 5:6, 6:12, 7:8, 8:14, 13:5, and 13:10, and Jeremiah 34:13. These verses clearly show God's intention to move His people from the land of slavery. Clearly, the move to leave is not to move into another land of slavery. With our understanding of how awful the African slave trade was, we cannot equate the same to these biblical times. There is clearly a difference in the cultures. If you wish to reject God, I suggest you find a better excuse than to pick on slavery.

Had God wished for slavery or mandated its implementation, then the best way for God to have no problems with His creation would be to remove free will. This way all His creation would be slaves to whatever God wanted. He could manipulate the people as puppets...but there is no relationship in that, no love in that, and as we have discussed, God wishes for loving relationship freely with His creation.