

SLAVERY AND THE BIBLE

God desires all men and nations to be free but allows slavery to exist as an expression of man's negative volition toward His revealed Word. When God gave the law to Moses, slavery was already a part of the human experience, so the Mosaic Law addressed the issue. But this does not mean that slavery was God's original intention.

God's Word deals with issues such as freedom and slavery, marriage and divorce, so that man will have divine instruction to handle such issues. **Slavery is no more a sin than divorce is, as long as those involved follow God's laws concerning it.**

Four types of slavery:

1. Personal Slavery – The ownership of one person over another.

The star denotes * Biblically allowed:

a. *Temporary Voluntary Servitude, indentured servants - a way to aid the poor and give them an opportunity to get back on their feet, *Ex. 21:2-4, Lev. 25:35-43, Deut. 15:12-18.*

b. *Permanent Voluntary Servitude - for those who choose security rather than freedom, *Ex. 21:3-6, Deut. 15:16-18*

c. * Enslaving Foreigners - Israelites could acquire slaves from pagan countries and from foreigners residing in Israel, *Lev. 25:44-46*.

d. Involuntary Slavery - enslaving innocent people against their will for profit **is against God's will and is unbiblical.**

Ex. 21:16 - Anyone who kidnaps another and either sells him or still has him when he is caught must be put to death.

Deut. 24:7 - If a man is caught kidnapping one of his brother Israelites and deals with him violently, or sells him, the kidnapper must die.

Deut. 23:15-16 - If a slave has taken refuge with you, do not hand him over to his master. 16 Let him live among you wherever he likes and in whatever town he chooses. Do not oppress him.

2) Civil Slavery - the reduction of an individual's liberty by an abusive government.

3) Political Slavery - the denial by one nation of another nation's right of self-government.

4) Addiction Slavery - a condition that exists when a person's will is subordinated to his addiction.

Slavery remains an issue for millions today. Slavery has always existed in human history. The Apostle Paul addressed, not the issue of slavery, but the way a slave and a master should handle it.

This was not because he agreed or disagreed with slavery, but to point out the plan of God to reconcile mankind, a fallen creature, from his sinful ways, to Himself (God).

Man is evil and without an unlimited atonement for that sin from Jesus Christ, Man had no ability to reconcile with God.

This was the primary issue that Paul was dealing with.