

[The Book of 1 Timothy](#)
Chapter 6
“I’m Not Impressed...”

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Pastor Howard Hendricks was ministering at a church in Washington D. C. during a father and son breakfast.

The list of famous and influential people at this gathering was quite impressive.

There were highly ranked military officers, Various government officials, even builders, and laborers.

After Pastor Hendricks finished speaking and the meeting was dismissed, he looked over to his right and saw Senator Mark Hatfield stacking chairs and picking up napkins that had fallen on the floor.

Now if you are impressed with the fact that you are a United States Senator, you don’t stack chairs and pick up napkins.

But if you are a true servant, the kind that Jesus showed us by His example, then nothing is beneath you to bend down and do.

If you or I are impressed that we are the Lord’s gift to the body of Christ, we won’t stoop to serve, we let others give, help, pray and encourage.

The inability to give up your own rights, or submit yourself to anyone, is a clear signal that you don’t really know Jesus for who He truly is.

There are 3 kinds of people that claim Jesus as Lord and Savior.

1. **Slaves** who serve Jesus because of fear.
2. **Hirelings** who serve the Lord for what they can get out of Him.
3. **Sons and Daughters** who serve Jesus because they are in Love with Him.

To those that are in love with Jesus, there is nothing that they will not give up, or stoop down to do, so that they can serve by giving up their own life.

What Kind of servant are You?

“Lord make us people who are not impressed with our self, that whatever our place or position in our life, we would always be willing to give up our rights to make peace, die to our self, to meet someone else’s need, Give all that we have and all that we are, just so that someone else can be blessed.”

“...Because Jesus that is what you did Lord, you gave up everything and became a servant for us...”

During the time that Paul is writing this letter to Timothy, there were some 60 million slaves.

Neither Paul, The Bible, nor the Lord ever condones or approves of Slavery. Slavery was just a fact of life during this time, Paul is writing to Timothy of the proper relationship that a Believer in Jesus should have whether they were the “**Master**” or a “**Servant**.”

So that you understand what I am talking about...Today, we would substitute the name “Master” with “Employer” and the “Servants” of that day, is today the “Employee.”

You’re saying to yourself, *“Hey he’s talking about me, My boss thinks he’s the master and I’m his slave...”*

1 Timothy 6

1 Let as many bondservants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and His doctrine may not be blasphemed.

“**Bondservant**” here is the Greek word “**Doulos**” (doo’los), which is the name given for “**A believer that serves Jesus for life**”, because they love Him.

The “**Yoke**” is the Greek word “**Zugos**” (dzoo-gos), “**To be coupled together.**”

So the idea here is that we have both a Christian and their boss Coupled together as Employer and Employee.

1. **Verse 1** speaks of the fact that a Christian Employee should count their Boss “**Worthy of all honor**”, for the express purpose of honoring Jesus.
2. **Negatively, to not do so**, here in verse 1 Paul says that this could bring “**Blasphemy**” to the name of the Lord.
3. “**Blas·pheme**”: “*To treat God or sacred things disrespectfully through words or action.*”
4. **By your actions** Jesus is either cursed or praised, think about that!

If you have made it known that you are a Christian at work, and everyone knows that you are Christian, and then by a poor work example you let this be seen by the other employees, you will cause them to “**Blaspheme**” Jesus.

1. **The person** who claims to know Jesus should be the hardest working, best employee in the company.
2. **You should arrive** before everyone else does, stay later than everyone else does.
3. **You should maintain a positive attitude** whenever you are in a conversation about your boss or the company. If others are complaining and griping about the hours

and the pay and the Boss or whatever, **YOU DON'T PARTICIPATE IN THOSE CONVERSATIONS!**

4. **Anything you have to say** about your job or boss or company is seasoned with a thankfulness and positive tone.
5. **Did you know** that Jesus gave you that Job? He provides for you and your family through that job? To complain against your job is to complain directly about how the Lord takes care of you and provides for you.
6. **Everything you say** and do as a Christian at work, reflects directly back on Jesus and what kind of a God you claim to serve.

You witness more to the people that you work with, by your example while at work, than anything you could ever say to them verbally.

- **If your work is poor**, your attitude is poor and you complain all the time, leave early, no matter what you might have told them about Jesus, it is all lost.
- **The idea here** is that you can do tremendous harm to the Lord when you are a lousy employee and your co workers know that you have claimed to be a Christian.

1 Peter 2:12-13

12 having **your conduct honorable** among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, **by your good works which they observe, glorify God** in the day of visitation.

13 Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake...

Ephesians 6:5-7

Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, **in sincerity of heart, as to Christ;**

6 not with **eyeservice, as men-pleasers**, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God **from the heart,**

7 with goodwill doing service, **as to the Lord**, and not to men,

Now Paul speaks to the Christian Employee again, this time, in the case where their boss is a Christian also.

1 Timothy 6

2 And those **who have believing masters**, let them **not despise them** because they **are brethren**, but rather serve them because those who are benefited are believers and beloved. Teach and exhort these things.

So, you are a Believer in Jesus, you work for a Boss who also is a Christian:

1. **Because they are a Christian**, do you slack off, you know looking for the Grace?
2. **Because they are a Christian Boss**, do you take advantage of the fact that they are a fellow believer?

3. **I have actually heard** a Christians Employee tell their boss when they were being scolded for their poor work: “Hey c’mon Brother, take it easy man, we are both Christians...”
4. **No, Brother, or Sister,** If you are a believer and you work for a Christian boss and they have to scold you about your poor work or attitude, SHAME ON YOU!
5. **Let me ask you a question,** if you were doing that task for Jesus, would you slack off like that? Would you have that kind of lousy attitude or take advantage of Jesus like you are taking advantage of your Christian boss?
6. **Then Paul says** that we are to Teach and Exhort you in these things.

At the end of your work day, ask yourself 3 questions:

1. **What did I do TO Jesus Today?** Did I Build Him up by my example or cause Him shame.
2. **Was what I did FOR Jesus?** Was what I did today, to bring Glory and Praise to Jesus name, Did I realize That I really work for the Lord, He gave me the Job?
3. **Was what I did WITH Jesus.** Did I take Jesus to work with me, did I ask Him to work through me?

Man! Isn’t the Word of God Good? This is really great Practical Stuff!

1 Timothy 6

3 If anyone teaches otherwise and **does not consent to wholesome words,** even the **words of our Lord Jesus Christ,** and to the doctrine which accords with godliness,
4 he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions,
5 useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, **who suppose that godliness is a means of gain.** From such withdraw yourself.

Here is an area that I think we all need some help with...

The use of “Wholesome Words”

- **This morning,** in case you have not noticed yet, the Holy Spirit is really dealing with **the part of us that is out there in the world everyday.**
- **I think that the closer we get to each other,** the better we know each other, the better friends that we get to be, WE ABUSE AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EACH OTHER.

What do you think? Let me show you what I mean:

1. **Would you say the closer you get to someone,** the more you joke around with each other? Yes of course. We call it just playing around or whatever.
2. **Would you say that sometimes** the jokes or the making fun **gets a little course?** I think it does.
3. **Would you say** that sometimes we make little innuendos that fit the category Paul mentions here: **“Un Wholesome Words?”**

Then Paul gives us a real practical example of what he is talking about; “*If anyone ... does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ*”

Would the little jokes we tell, the fun we make of each other, the things we laugh at be the words of Jesus?

1 John 2:6

He who says he abides in Jesus ought himself also **to walk just as Jesus walked.**

Paul said of Jesus that He was:

Romans 1:4

...declared to be the Son of God with **power according to the Spirit of holiness,** by the resurrection from the dead.

Jesus character was that of extreme Joy, David wrote about Jesus that “He was anointed with the oil of Gladness more than His companions”

Psalms 45:7

You love righteousness and hate wickedness; Therefore God, Your God, has **anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions.**

Jesus was a blast to be around. He was full of Joy, probably joked around Himself and was very playful in personality.

1. **But every word** that came out of His mouth was PURE, RIGHTEOUS.
2. **Every thought** He expressed was HOLY AND SET APART.
3. **Every Action** He made was with the thought that HE WANTED TO PLEASE THE FATHER.

John said that anyone who claims to belong to Jesus should walk the same way Jesus walked.

- **I think playfulness** with each other is wonderful.
- **I think having fun** together is essential.
- **I think the joy of fellowship together** is to joke around with each other.
- BUT ALWAYS WITH PURITY OF OUR SPEECH TO EACH OTHER.

Ephesians 5:4

neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, **nor coarse jesting,** which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.

During this study I was personally very convicted of my own failure in this area. Those of you who hang out with me, I am still going to joke around with you and

be just as playful as ever, but I am not going to use any language that Jesus Himself would not use any longer.

If you do, when we are together, I am going to scold you. And I WANT YOU TO SCOLD ME IF I DO ALSO.

1 Timothy 6

6 Now **godliness with contentment is great gain.**

7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

8 And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.

“We brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out”

That means you came into this world in your birthday suit, and your leaving this world with your birthday suit...No you can't take a 40 foot u haul with you!

Man Lord, you are hitting on all those places right where we live this morning!

“godliness with contentment” “Contentment” What is that?

- **Well. What do you have this morning,** not much, a lot, BE CONTENT WITH IT!

Con · tent · ment

1. *“A feeling of calm satisfaction.”*

2. *“A circumstance, or a feature or characteristic of something, that gives rise to satisfaction.”*

Matthew 6:8

“...For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.

Philippians 4:19

And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

We live today in a society that is constantly presented with the “New and Improved”

- **We have the latest Gadgets** available to us.
- **You can log on to the internet** and buy everything in the world right from your computer keyboard.
- **You can work your entire life away** just to acquire that newest thing.
- **And before the Price label** is taken off of it, we can want some other new thing.
- **It is a cycle of endless proportions.** **The more you get the more you want, you never get enough.**

Ecclesiastes 4:6 Solomon Said:

6 Better **a handful with quietness Than both hands full, together with toil and grasping for the wind.**

7 Then I returned, and I saw vanity (Emptiness) under the sun:

8 There is one alone, without companion: He has neither son nor brother. Yet there is no end to all his labors, Nor is his eye satisfied with riches. But he never asks, "For whom do I toil and deprive myself of good?"

Solomon became the Richest man in the world. The scriptures say that Solomon

- **Every year:** received **25 tons of gold**—that is over **250 million dollars**—every year!—\$700,000.00 a Day! (1 Kings 10:14)

And yet, at the end of his life, listen to what Solomon said of all of this accumulating of wealth and pursuit of this world:

Ecclesiastes 1:14

I have seen all **the works** that are done under the sun; and indeed, **all is emptiness and grasping for the wind.**

There once was a rich Russian man who was never satisfied. His desire was to accumulate more and more land.

He had heard of an amazing offer that said that for 1,000 rubles he could have all of the land that he could walk around in a single day.

All he had to do was make it back to the starting place by sundown or he would lose it all.

He arose early in the morning, walked on and on, always believing that he could get just a little more land if he just kept going.

He traveled so far that he realized that unless he ran all the way back to the starting place, he would not have time to make it before sundown.

As the sun got lower in the sky he ran faster and faster. Ahead he could see the starting place. Giving up all that he had, he crossed the finish line and collapsed.

He laid dead on the ground, a stream of blood flowing out from his mouth.

How much land did the man who never had enough finally get? Just enough to bury him in...six feet long and six feet deep!

1 Timothy 6

9 But those who desire to be rich **fall into temptation and a snare**, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.

Notice the focus of this verse: "*Those who desire to be rich...*" If the accumulation of Wealth is your goal, what does the rest of this verse say?

"...It is a snare...that drowns men in destruction..."

Matthew 13:18-23

18 “Therefore hear the parable of the sower:

19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is **he who received seed by the wayside**.

20 But he who received **the seed on stony places**, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy;

21 yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.

22 Now **he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful**.

23 But **he who received seed on the good ground** is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”

In this parable, is an illustration that shows us 4 conditions of the human heart or 4 types of people that hear about Jesus, and their response.

1. **The Hard Ground** is the hard heart that doesn't understand...
 2. **The Stony ground** is the one who falls away because of trouble...
 3. **The Thorny ground** is the one who falls away because their heart is consumed by material things and the pursuit of them.
 4. **The Good soil** is the heart who hears, receives, then produces fruit.
- **The average American** will spend \$1,860,000 on goods and services during their lifetime (American Demographics)
 - **It is going to cost you** during your entire working career \$200,000 to keep, pay for and maintain an automobile.
 - **American families** now spend over **92%** of their disposable income on debt.
 - **Every year** 50 million new credit cards are issued.
 - **In 2002**, the average College student carries an average of 3 credit cards with an average credit card debt of \$2,327.
 - **By the time** they have graduated, that credit card debt has grown to an average of \$4,776 on 4 cards. (Nellie Mae, 2002)
 - **By the time** a student graduates from college, they have already accumulated an average of **\$20,402** in education loans and credit card debt.
 - **In the last couple of years**, there has been a 50% increase in bankruptcies among people under 25.
 - **In 2001**, 1 Million 400 thousand American families filed for bankruptcy. (American Bankruptcy Institute).
 - **The average American family** has a credit card debt of 8,940 per household.
 - **A credit card balance** of just \$3,900 at 18% interest, would take 42 years to pay off making just the minimum monthly payment! (Debt Free.com)

- **Some of us owe allot more credit card debt than this.** What if the Lord made us stay and pay off all that debt before He took us in the Rapture?

2 Timothy 3:1-2

1 But know this, that **in the last days** perilous times will come:

2 For men will be lovers of themselves, **lovers of money**,

Would you say that this generation of people on the earth meet that qualification?

Did you know that the statistics for Christian families in no different than that of the rest of the world, Christians are up to their necks in debt.

1 Timothy 6

10 For **the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil**, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

This verse has been misquoted, miss taught millions of times.

“Money is the root of all kinds of evil...” RIGHT?

NO, *“The LOVE of money is the root of all kinds of evil.*

- **Money in and of itself** is not evil or good, it is just a tool.
- **Money can be used** to accomplish incredible things, or it can be used for the most horrible things imaginable.
- **The Money is not evil**, it is the Person, with their motivation, their heart that is evil.

Now notice the part of verse 10 that is the most important for the believer:

- *“The love of money has caused some BELIEVERS to stray from following Jesus, and pierced them through with many sorrows.”*
- **Why don't Christians today have the time to spend in Church with other believers?** Because they are so far in debt that they have to work every hour they can at a job that expects long hours, to pay off the debt of stud they are long tired of!

1 Timothy 6

11 **But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness**, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.

This morning is a “Wake up Call” for us by the Lord that if we have been caught up in the rat race of trying to buy the latest things the world offers, and pay for it on credit, that it is time to realize how harmful this is to our Spiritual life.

1. **Determine** to purchase not one more thing on Credit cards.

2. **Develop a plan** to pay off all your credit card debt as quickly as possible.
3. **Keep only one credit card**, and use it only for Emergencies, Car Rentals, Purchases that require a credit card and then to pay it off as soon as the statement comes in.

Verse 11, we as believers are to “*Flee the Love of Money*, the accumulation of things that are not necessary for our life, and the accumulation of debt that puts us into slavery.

Proverbs 22:7

...the borrower is servant to the lender.

Can I see a show of hands “How many of you would like to be a Slave?”

How many of you find yourself a slave to paying off all your credit card debt---Don't Raise your hands!!!

How many of you really want to be happy, satisfied, content in your life? Then do what the rest of verse 11 says:

“...pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness...”

The Greek word here for “pursue” is “**Dioko**” (dee-o'-ko), It comes from the emotion that is felt when a person is fleeing away from something.

Do you know the desperation that you feel when you are trying to run away from something that is very dangerous?

This is the emotion that we are to duplicate in chasing after Righteousness, Godliness, patience, and Gentleness.

- **Do you have a PASSION** is your desire to be more righteous in your words, actions and attitudes?
- **Is the pursuit of these**, like the desperation you feel when your life is threatened?
- **Well, guess what?** The whole point of this part of the Study in the Word, is that if we continue to pursue the accumulation of things, and the compounding of debt, it will threaten our very Eternal Life! **IS IT WORTH IT?**

One of the songs that we sang this morning came from Psalm 42:

Psalms 42:1 ¶

1 As the deer pants for the water brooks, **So pants my soul for You, O God.**

2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?

This Psalm speaks of the intense desire to just have more of the Lord in their life. The intense desire to just be able to come and appear before the Lord in His Sanctuary where true and lasting joy and satisfaction come from.

- **I pray that each one of us this morning** would turn away from this worlds pursuit of the material, temporary, rusting, things and turn instead to a hunger and a longing for more of Jesus.

1 Timothy 6

12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

This gives to us an idea of what we are up against, if we determine this morning to change the course that we are on right now.

1. **To turn from the pursuit of Materialism** to the Lord is going to be a “Fight”.
2. **It is not going to be easy**, because the FLESH WANTS STUFF!
3. **He or she wants** for you to keep buying them things.
4. **Only by building up the Spirit** that is the real you in this body that is dying, can we hope to win this fight.

Paul says, “**Hey put on the boxing gloves, and Fight this Good fight**”, by doing such, you will lay a hold of Eternal life...”

1 Timothy 6

13 I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate,
14 that you keep this commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ’s appearing,
15 which He will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords,
16 who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.

Keep what commandment? To Fight this fight of **not getting caught up** in the materialism of the World. **Now It is not talking about providing a house, transportation, clothing food and security for yourself and your family.**

It is talking about the pursuit of all of the things that are really not necessary for our life, that really cause us to get ourselves into debt and become a slave rather than free the way Jesus died to make us free.

Verse 16 speaks of the fact that The Lord dwells in a light that we cannot approach as a human being. If we were to be brought into the presence of the Lord right now in these human bodies, WE WOULD INSTANTLY BE CONSUMED!

Lamentations 3:22

Through the LORD’S mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not.

It is because the Lord loves you so much that He will not permit you to see Him in His glory while you are in this body that is dead because of sin.

It is only because you have Jesus living in you now, that when this body is dead, the Lord has a brand new body prepared for you, where you will be able to approach the Lord of the Universe and not be consumed...I CAN'T WAIT!

1 Timothy 6

17 Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy.

18 Let them do good, that they be **rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share,**

19 storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

20 O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge—

21 by professing it some have strayed concerning the faith. Grace be with you. Amen.

Paul instructs those who have received the gift of wealth, that

1. **All wealth** comes from God.
2. **He holds those accountable that have his wealth,** to do good with it, to share it with others.
3. **Then instead of storing up judgment** because their wealth drew them away from the Lord, by sharing it, it breaks the hard heart open, and keeps the Lord as Lord of their life.

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