

# Three Kinds of Slavery



## 1 Timothy 6:1-10

All who are under the yoke of slavery should consider their masters worthy of full respect, so that God's name and our teaching may not be slandered. Those who have believing masters are not to show less respect for them because they are brothers. Instead, they are to serve them even better, because those who benefit from their service are believers, and dear to them. These are the things you are to teach and urge on them.

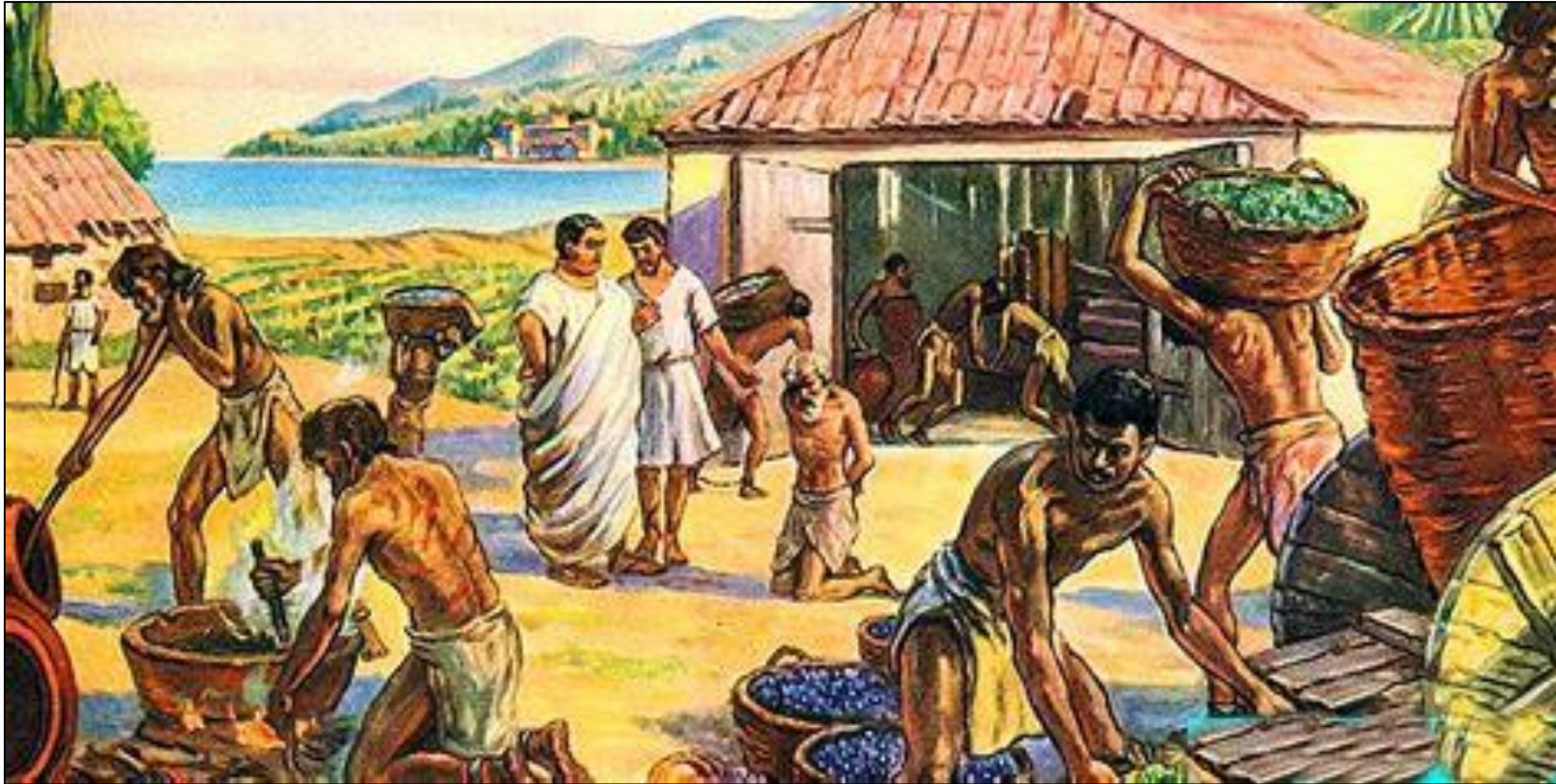
If anyone teaches false doctrines and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, he is conceited and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions and constant friction between men of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.

But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.



# No. 1 Slavery in the Roman empire

All who are under the yoke of slavery



It is estimated that 20 to 30% of Italy's population were slaves!  
Many slaves became believers – Did they appreciate the blessings?

# Slavery in the Roman empire

All who are under the yoke of slavery

Why didn't Paul denounce the system?  
What ultimately counts - bodies or souls?



All who are under the yoke of slavery  
should consider their masters worthy of full respect,

Consider?

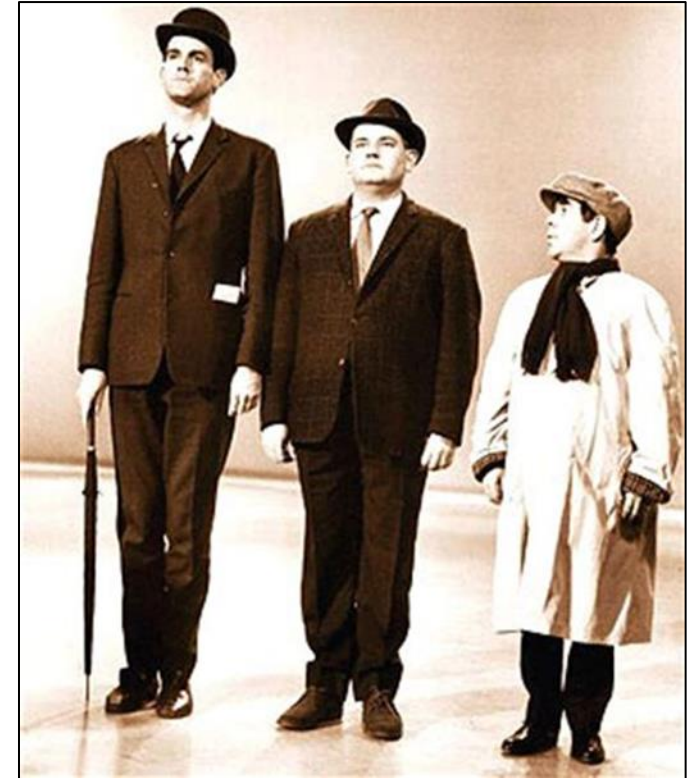
Treat and regard them with a new attitude.

Treating them with respect is

– a powerful evangelistic tool!

Cf. Peter about harsh masters

1 Peter 4:16 Yet if anyone suffers as a  
Christian, let him not be ashamed, but  
let him glorify God in that name.



*They* should consider their masters worthy of full respect, so that God`s name and our teaching may not be slandered.

Bad attitude and behaviour reflects on the God you claim to worship and discredits the teachings of the faith

People may say,  
“If that’s Christianity  
then I don’t want to know!”



# Christian bosses

Those who have believing masters are not to show less respect for them because they are brothers.

They are not to take advantage of them because they now see they are equal in God's salvation plan – brothers

There was a cause of right 'offence' when master and slave were seen going together to church meetings. And some slaves had become elders!



# Service

Instead, they are to serve them even better,

The term “serve” changes it from imposed slavery to willing obedient service.

It's a greater motivation to do better  
Love is always a great motivator





Instead, they are to serve them even better,  
because those who benefit from their service are believers,  
and dear to them.

Why?

Because you are doing good  
to a fellow believer,  
and they are 'dear'.



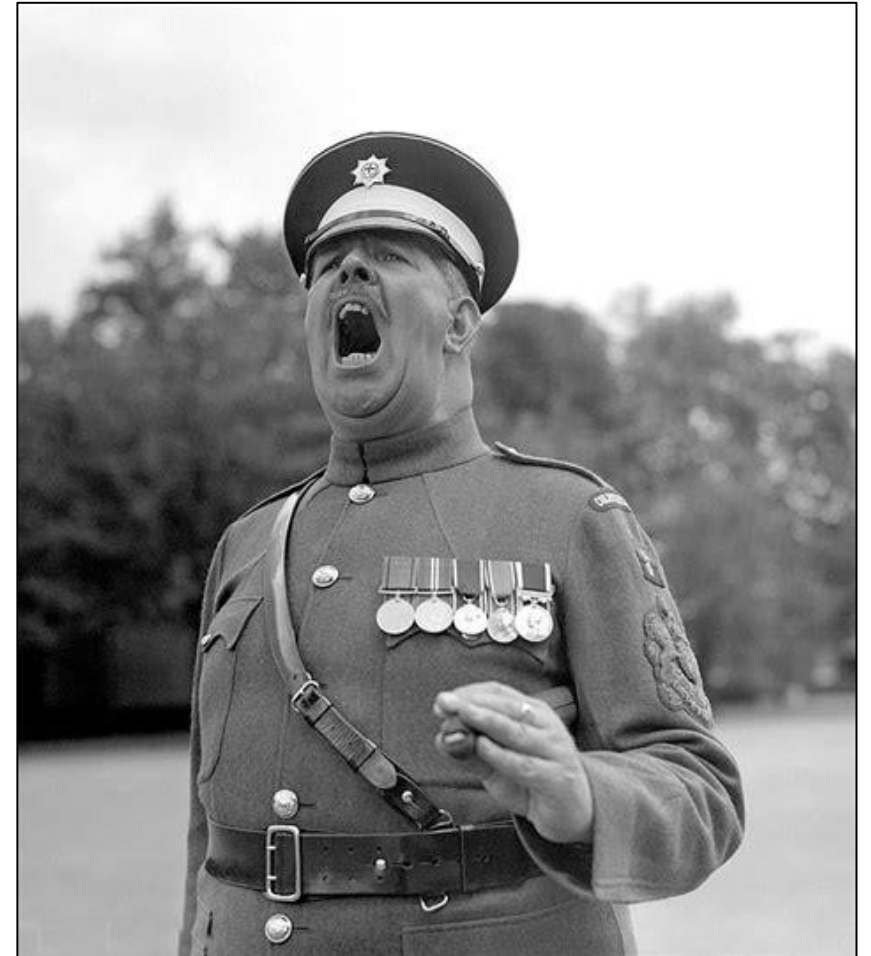
Do you appreciate your brothers?

These are the things you are to teach and urge on them.

Teaching and preaching

These matters are not optional.

Believer's behaviour is changed by  
'hearing' the truth.



# The test of what is taught.

If anyone teaches false doctrines and does not agree to **the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching**, he is conceited and understands nothing.

‘Sound’ teaching should show positive for the following ingredients:-

- \*The Lord Jesus Christ
- \*Who he is and what he did and what he says
- \*Teaching that is right and promotes right behaviour



## No. 2 Ego slavery

If anyone teaches false doctrines and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, **he is conceited and understands nothing.**



They have been taken over by their 'hobby horse' ideas. They suffer from proud thinking - 'we are the ones who have got it all right!'

Their understanding is superficial, so they don't see the implications and practical consequences of their erroneous ideas.



## How EGO shows itself

He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words

An “unhealthy interest” means that they are engrossed in and addicted to arguments about “words”

It seems so trivial! What do the ‘words’ mean?



All truth matters, but some truths are more important than others!

# Rotten Fruit

He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words **that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions**

The fruit of false teaching

Division - cf recent critical theories of culture, race, gender etc.

A terrible ungodly result!



and constant friction between men of corrupt mind,  
who have been robbed of the truth

Their minds have been robbed by others  
'passing it on'. It poisons and corrupts  
their thinking. (The enemy is behind it)

False teaching never leads to peace but  
only to friction



## No 3 Slavery of materialism – the love of stuff

and *they* think that godliness is a means to financial gain.



They have a completely distorted view of godliness.  
It is a form of a 'prosperity' teaching.

The primary aim of godliness is not self-interest but a desire for God to be glorified through our lives





## But there are real benefits to true godliness



The gains are not material things in themselves although God may work with or without them.

Contentment is the attitude of the heart that is thankful for all of God's mercies, recognising that God knows what we really need and provides for us.

Philippians 4:11 Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am, to be content.

# If you take the long view, it is obvious.

For we brought nothing into the world,  
and we can take nothing out of it.



We arrived with nothing.  
And nothing of a material nature  
is going to leave with us.  
We cannot keep a hold on it  
and we cannot take it with us.



Do we have treasures stored in heaven?  
(Matthew 6:20)

# What are the basics that we need to live?

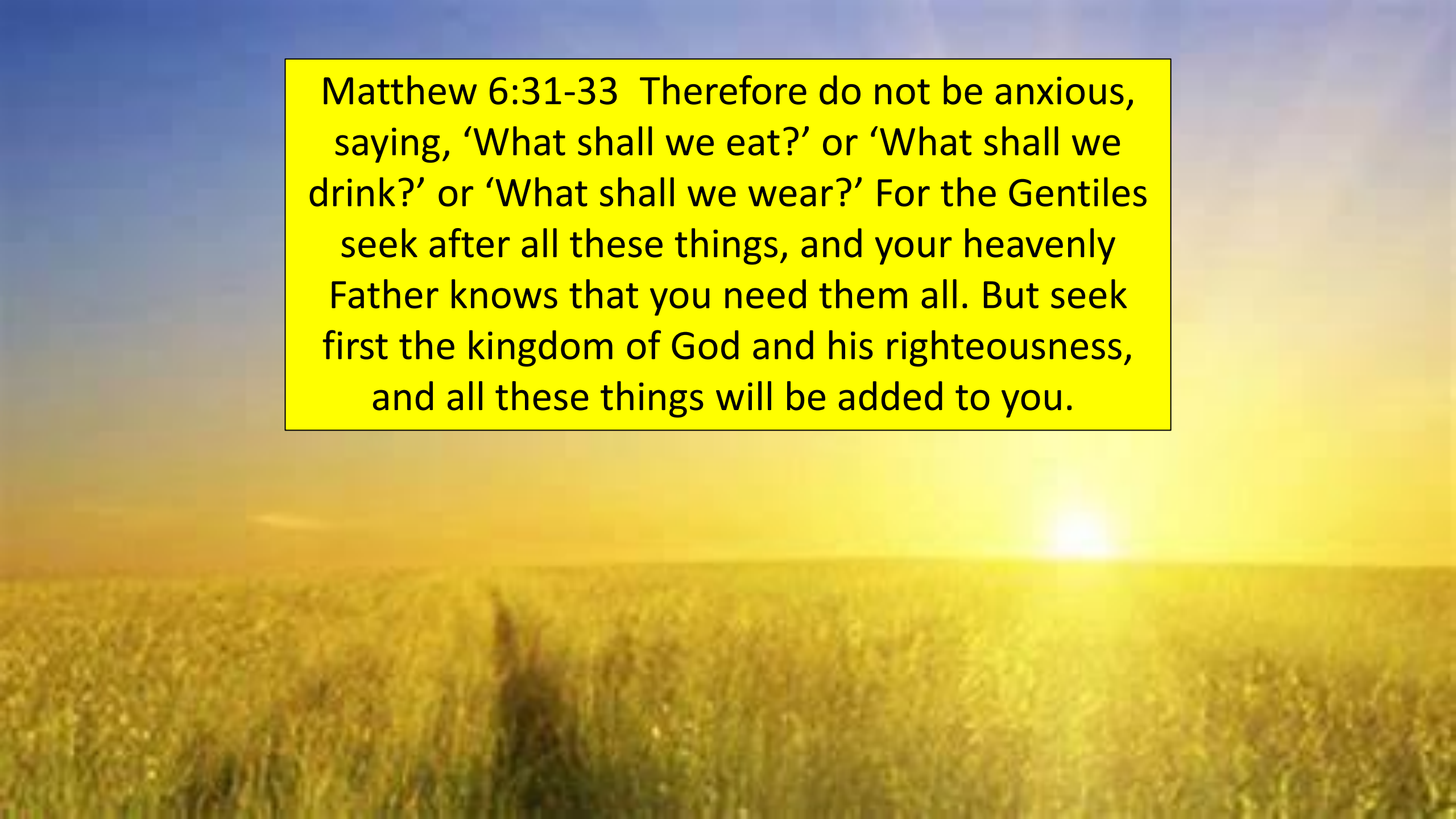
But if we have food(pl) and clothing(pl), we will be content with that.

Natural life needs food and a covering.

What kind/level of food and clothing would you consider as sufficient to make you content?

Are we content with these basics?





Matthew 6:31-33 Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

**People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction.**

They are sadly absorbed with acquisition

**Temptation** - “just look at that!”

**Trap** – once hooked !

It is a form of idolatry and a failure to believe that God is our security and will meet our needs.



People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and **into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction.**

It takes you down a dangerous road.

**Foolish desires** - crazy collections of 'stuff'

**Harmful** – prepared to go to any lengths to get what you want

**The Result** – plunged(sunk and drowned) in ruin morally and often financially and ultimately soul ruin.



For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.

It really is a heart issue.

(That is why it is idolatry)

It is not **having** money that is the problem.

It's **loving** it. Cf. the rich young ruler -

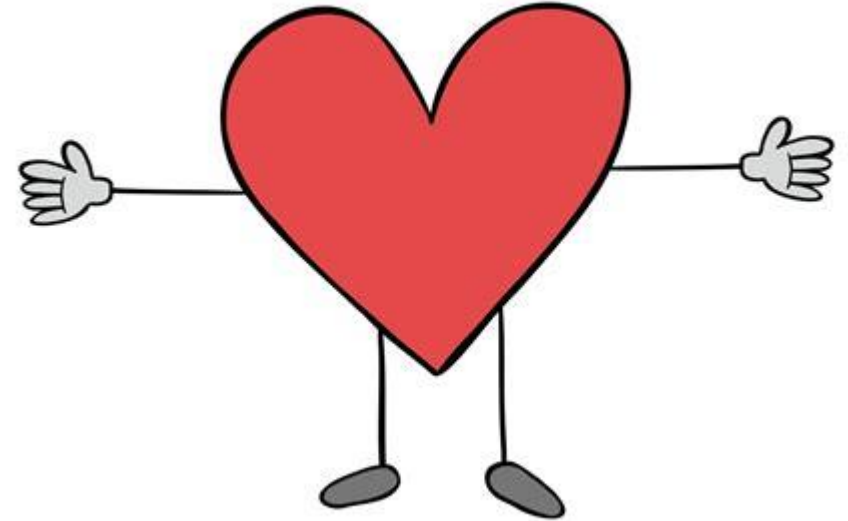
It is the root cause of:-

Neglect of other people – they are not important

Abuse of others in its pursuit

Fostering envy or pride by comparing ourselves to others

Self destruction



# Left the Path

Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

Their desire made them focus on what they considered 'important' to the sad neglect of their spiritual life. That had resulted in their abandoning their faith and giving them trouble in its pointless pursuit.



Materialism has become their cruel master.



A close-up of a heavy metal chain with a glowing, fiery background. The chain is dark and metallic, with several links visible. The background is a bright, fiery orange and yellow, suggesting a fire or a glowing light source. The overall mood is intense and dramatic.

Are you a slave or are you free?

If the Son therefore shall  
make you free, you shall be  
free indeed. - John 8:36