

# Confronting Christianity

## Week Ten: Doesn't the Bible Condone Slavery?

Pre-Group Reading Material: Chapter 10 (Pages 175-192)

### Questions:

- How do you feel when someone brings up the topic of slavery? Do you have any worries about how slavery is discussed in our country today? Have you ever felt guilty about American slavery, or felt that someone was trying to make you feel guilty about slavery, even though you were not personally involved in slavery?
- What important differences does the author point out between slavery in the Old Testament and slavery in the United States? (177-178)
- While to us today, the very concept of slavery is repulsive, in the New Testament, the Apostle Paul often uses the language of slavery to describe the Christian's relationship to Jesus. How does this strike you? What three reasons does McLaughlin give for why Paul may have chosen to use this language? (180-181)
- How did the message of Christianity transform the relationship between slaves and masters in the New Testament? Think specifically about how **1 Corinthians 12:13**, and **Galatians 3:28** change things. (181-183)
- Read **Luke 10:25-37** together and discuss; How should the parable of the Good Samaritan inform how we treat those who are different than we are? (187)
- What biblical principles propelled Christian abolitionists in their fight against slavery? (184-190)
- On page 190, Rebecca discusses how for Amanda Berry Smith, who traveled to India and Africa to preach the gospel, that "loving Jesus meant loving justice." In what ways has loving Jesus impacted how you love justice?
- Near the end of her chapter the author says that "*The complicity of white Christians in the history of slavery, segregation, and racial injustice in America stands as a blot on the record of Christianity.*" (191) Why do you think that so many white confessing Christians in the United States supported slavery? What could Christians do to avoid other moral blind spots today?
- Why do you think so many slaves, former slaves, and descendants of slaves have chosen to follow Christ in spite of how they were treated by some Christians? (190-192)
- McLaughlin notes that; "*...most black churches are theologically evangelical, and many have a strong evangelistic heartbeat, unashamedly calling others to repentance and faith in Jesus.*" (192) Indeed, surveys have found that, as a whole, black Christians tend to be *more* theologically conservative and *more* engaged with their faith than white Christians. The Barna Group reports; "*Black Christians far outpace the spiritual vibrancy of white Christians on almost every measure of faith we use.*" <https://www.barna.com/barnas-perspective-on-race-and-the-church/> If this is true, why do you think we don't see more unity and cooperation between churches like ours and black churches that are theologically similar?