

What's So Bad About Servitude?

Editor's Pick. Written by Paul Rosenberg.

Some years ago I found myself at dinner with a small group of people. We had a pleasant time, but soon enough, someone brought up my "weird" opinions. I explained that I was an advocate for freedom and opposed restrictions on it.

A spirited debate followed, of course, and at one point I said something about disliking servitude. In response, one of the people at the table – a medical professional – asked:

"What's so bad about servitude?"

At first I was shocked, because I had never heard anyone say such a thing. I'm an American boy, after all, and I grew up surrounded by at least an implied demand for freedom.

But once past that, I realized I didn't have an answer to the question. I had always taken it as a given that servitude was bad – not only from what I had heard and read, but from what I knew in my bones. I dug within myself for a serious response to the question, but I came up dry. I had no answer to give.

I continued the conversation as best I could, and perhaps I did some small amount of good. But, as I drove home, I realized that I had a problem. This man asked a simple and essential question, and I didn't have an answer to it.

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