



IDENTITY

BOND SERVANTS

IDENTITY - BOND SERVANTS PART 2

In the resource last week we looked at the nature of a bondservant. We discussed how the nature of every bondservant of Christ is to be poor in spirit and unless this is our known reality, we in fact won't be a bondservant or a bond slave in Christ.

We will still operate from the spirit of pride, known as the god of self, and although being committed to Christ, we unfortunately, are not wholeheartedly surrendered and yielded to Christ, keeping us out of this all encompassing inner life we are promised, in Him.

All function we do for Christ must be empowered and defined by this nature of being a bondservant. All the function we do for God must be defined by this new identity in Christ, who was in fact the greatest model of being a Bondservant.

This is why we see the likes of Paul, Peter and James address themselves as bondservants before the gift that is on their lives.

Titus 1:1 Paul, a bond-servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of those chosen of God and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness.

2 Peter 1:1 Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

James 1:1 James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad: Greetings.

Philippians 1:1 Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons.

To not live and lead from this identity of slave or bondservant, is to live and lead from the identity of being an orphan. These are 2 polar opposite identities which are in direct opposition to one another. One is all about influencing others through the giving away of their affluence with the gift on their life, where the other is all about insulating and protecting oneself with their affluence with the gift on their life.

This applies to every single follower of Jesus, while I also want to make special mention of people who carry one of the five fold grace gifting's on their life.

A person who has a five fold leadership grace gift on their life, for the building up of the church, who doesn't have this gift defined and shaped by the nature of a bondservant, is a very dangerous child of God, when it comes to the building of God's people. This person will lead people to themselves rather than to Christ, because of the pride and insecurity that lives within them. They will use this gifting to lord over people, keeping them small and under their control, telling people to get on board with the vision, purpose and culture of the house, which is in fact their own personal realty and not necessarily God's at all, even though it sounds like it is.

This of course will not be this persons reality, but this in fact will be their life and what they demonstrate. This is how deceptive and dangerous this all can be when we don't know this spiritual posture of being poor in spirit, a slave to Christ, because we have not yet fallen on the Rock and had our spirit of pride broken into pieces.



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You see we are given this powerful gift on our lives which is empowered by His divine grace, while not necessarily having this spirit of humility within us, and so our spirit of pride defines how this gift will be used and not the Spirit of humility. We end up serving ourselves and building our own reality with this gift, the counterfeit, our empire in His name, as opposed to seeing His people built the way He commands.

The two can't be any further from the other to the one who is discerning, but to the one who lacks discernment, they look exactly the same. To the one who lacks spiritual discernment, they will always get sucked into this vacuum of the religious institutional model that man builds through God's gifting and the Father allows this.

My hope is that from this resource we have all been made aware of the importance of truly being a bondservant of Christ, for the sake of Christ, oneself and others, especially when it comes to seeing the church become who she is called and chosen to be and become.

QUESTIONS

1. Why does this identity of being a bondservant define so much about how the gift is administered?
2. Why is it essential everyone of us no matter what gift or gifts we have on our lives, have this identity of bondservant operating in us?
3. What has been your experience of being under leadership who have gifts on their lives but are not poor in spirit?
4. Why is this position in question 3 so dangerous to the body of Christ?
5. How does being a bondservant first, shape and define your service to Christ and others, with the gift on your life?

ACTION POINT: What action point do we need to take away from tonight?