



# IDENTITY

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# SOLDIERS

## IDENTITY - SOLDIERS PART 1

This is one aspect of our identity that we don't tend to look at that much, but it is very much a part of our identity. Would you consider yourself to be a soldier?

***2 Timothy 2:3-4 Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.***

Out of these 2 verses what stands out for you the most? What were you drawn to the most when your ears heard these words of Spirit and Life and why? **Discuss this as a group.**

Suffer hardship with me as a good soldier - gulp? What does that mean and what does that look like? Paul said he wanted to have fellowship with the sufferings of Christ!

***Philippians 3:10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.***

Oneness with the sufferings of Christ! What was Paul thinking about? Was the man in his right mind when he wrote this testimony? Having oneness with His sufferings and being conformed into His death. This doesn't sound like the good news at all, in fact it sounds like really really bad news, and yet this statement has made it's way into God's book and been approved by God.

We see Paul continue to testify to this suffering lifestyle in chapter 3 of 2 Timothy, when he says this...

***2 Timothy 3:10-12 Now you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance, persecutions, and sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium and at Lystra; what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord rescued me! Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.***

This is getting worse. Persecutions and sufferings. All who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. We can view this passage through two lenses. Firstly, all those who live a life in Christ, in Truth, will face opposition and persecution by all those who live from and for the flesh.

This opposition and persecution can come from anyone. It can come from family members who are followers or non followers. It can come from friends who are followers and non followers. It can come from complete strangers. A soldier in Christ will be persecuted for living in and out Truth.

Secondly, if we are not experiencing this persecution and suffering as a follower of Christ, then we are not living a godly life in Christ, because Paul is very clear with this absolute statement of truth.

I am not sure which one is more offensive. The fact that you are being persecuted for godliness or the fact that you are not, because you are not in godliness as a soldier of Christ, but only forms of godliness.

**Q. What are our thoughts about these 2 lenses of truth?**

There are true sufferings for Christ and then there are false sufferings for Christ.



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Q. What are the differences? How does one discern the difference between the real and the false?

Q. What role does the Spirit of humility and the spirit of pride play in the real sufferings and the counterfeit?

Q. What is the difference between a good soldier in Christ and a bad soldier?

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