



IDENTITY

BOND SERVANTS

IDENTITY - BOND SERVANTS PART 1 (SECOND LANGUAGE)

The next part of our identity is being a bondservant of Christ. The word bond servant means slave. This is being (and becoming) a slave of Christ. Being a bond servant (or slave) brings complete freedom in Christ.

People think of the word slave as being tied up, being treated badly and restricted (not able to do what they want). However, this is looking at being a slave from a worldly mindset (point of view). This is the opposite of being a slave in Christ. Bond servants or slaves of Christ are the most free people that you can meet. Does this sound like an oxymoron (a combination of words that have opposite meanings)?

Bond servants have been emptied of self. They are dead to what man thinks. They do not need to be encouraged or approved by other people. They have been set free of this need by the divine grace of God.

You may not be able to relate to this idea. You may not even believe it. That is ok. The Spirit wants to renew your mind and bring you into this truth. Bond servants or slaves of Christ do not need the approval of other people to feel valued.

Galatians 1:10 For am I now seeking the favour of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ.

Or in other words;

Galatians 1:10 When I say these things, I am not trying to please people. No, it is God that I want to please. If I only wanted to make people happy, then I would not be a bond servant of Christ.

The verse is very clear. Paul says that he would not be a bond servant if he only wanted to please people. These two things do not go together.

Jesus Christ is our living example of how to be a bond servant.

Philippians 2:5-11 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Or in other words;

Philippians 2:5-11 Have the same attitude as Jesus did. Christ had the same nature as God. He was completely equal with God. But he did not try to keep hold of that. Instead, he chose to leave heaven. He took for himself the nature of a bond servant. He became like a human. And when he lived as a man, he made himself even less important. He obeyed God completely, so that he died. He even died on a cross!

Because of that, God then raised Jesus Christ to the most important place. God gave him the name that is greater than every other name. As a result, when people hear the name of Jesus, they must worship him.



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Everyone will go down on their knees in front of him. That includes everything that is in heaven, everything on the earth and everything under the earth. Everyone will say that Jesus Christ is Lord. When they say that aloud, they will show that God the Father is very great.

Jesus Christ is our Lord and Saviour. He is God. He became a bond servant and became like a human. Think on that for a minute or two. Almighty God, Jesus Christ became like you and me. He died on the cross and rose again. He died so that we could be saved from sin. He also died so that we could become like Him. So we can have a brand new life inside (even though we look the same on the outside) and live like Jesus lived.

We cannot be a bond servant or slave of Christ unless we humble our spirit of pride. The spirit of pride is not part of being a bond servant of Christ. The spirit of pride is the exact opposite spirit to Christ. Philippians 2:5 says "Have the same attitude as Jesus did".

What attitude is Paul talking about? The first beatitude in Matthew 5. This is the attitude of being poor in spirit. The kingdom of heaven belongs to the poor in spirit. The inner kingdom life of Christ belongs to the poor in spirit. The poor in spirit are the sons who are the bond servants of Christ.

QUESTIONS

1. How do you really become a bond servant of Christ?
2. How are bond servants of Christ called to live?
3. Why is it important that every son shows that they are a bond servant?
4. What is the key attitude or spirit that helps sons become bond servants?

ACTION POINT: What do we need to do from our reading and discussion tonight?