



IDENTITY

BOND SERVANTS

IDENTITY - BOND SERVANTS PART 2 (SECOND LANGUAGE)

Last week we looked at the nature of a bond servant. We discussed how the nature of every bond servant of Christ is to be poor in spirit. Unless we are poor in spirit, we will not be a bond servant of Christ.

We still live from the spirit of pride (the god of self). We might be committed (willing to give all our time and energy) to Christ but we are not surrendered (willing to give all of our control) to Christ with our whole heart. This keeps us out of the amazing inner life that we are promised in Him.

Everything that we do for Christ must be powered by the nature of being a bond servant. Everything that we do for Christ must be defined by this new identity in Christ. He is the greatest model of being a bond servant.

This is why people like Paul, Peter and James talk about themselves as bond servants before they talk about 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.

Or in other words;

Titus 1:1 This letter is from me, Paul. I am a bond servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ. God has sent me to help his chosen people to understand his true message and to trust him. Then they will live in a way that pleases God.

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.

Or in other words;

2 Peter 1:1 This letter is from me, Simon Peter. I am a bond servant and apostle of Jesus Christ. I am writing to you people who believe in Jesus Christ, as we do. That is a valuable gift that God has given to us all. He has done this because Jesus is our God and saviour and He is completely good and right.

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

Or in other words;

James 1:1 This letter is from me, James. I am a bond servant of God and the Lord Jesus Christ. I am writing to the 12 tribes of the people of God who live in many different parts of the world. I say 'hello' to all of you.

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.

Or in other words;

Philippians 1:1 Paul and Timothy write this letter to you. We are bond servants of Christ Jesus. We are writing to you, God's people who live in Philippi. You belong to God because you are united with Christ Jesus. We are writing to all of you. This includes the leaders and the deacons in the church there.



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If you do not live from the identity of a bond servant, you live from the identity of being an orphan. These two identities are directly opposite each other. One identity helps other people through giving away their wealth with the gift on their life. The other identity protects themselves with their wealth with the gift on their life.

This applies to every follower of Jesus. I particularly want to look at people who carry one of the fivefold gifts of grace on their life.

A person who has a fivefold gift of leadership on their life can be very dangerous. This gift is for the building up of the church. This gift on a person must be defined and shaped by the nature of a bondservant. If the gift is not, they will lead people to themselves and not to Christ. This is because of their pride and insecurity. They will use this gift to place themselves above other people. They will try to keep other people small and under their control. They will tell people to follow the vision, purpose and culture of the church. This vision, purpose and culture might be their own and not God's.

That person may not realise what they are doing but they will show it through how they live their life and how they treat other people. It is very dangerous. We can easily be deceived (believe what is not true) when we do not know the spiritual position of being poor in spirit. To be a bond servant of Christ we must fall on the Rock (Jesus Christ) and our spirit of pride must be broken into pieces by Him.

God gives us this powerful gift on our lives. It is powered by His divine grace. If we do not have the spirit of humility within us (not think that we are better than other people) then the spirit of pride will define how the gift is used. We will serve ourselves and build our own kingdom with this gift. This is a counterfeit (a copy that will trick people). We will build our own kingdom in His name instead of building the people of God in the way He commands.

If you are able to tell the difference between God's real Kingdom and a man-made copy (if you have spiritual discernment), it will be clear that they are very opposite. People who do not have spiritual discernment will be tricked into following a religious institutional model of church (based on rules and procedures). Man builds this type of church using the gifts of God. The Father lets this happen.

I hope that you are now aware of how important it is to truly be a bond servant of Christ. This is important for the sake of Christ, yourself and others. It is especially important so that the church can become who she is called and chosen to be.

QUESTIONS

1. Why does the identity of being a bondservant define how the gift is used?
2. Why is it important that we all have this identity of bondservant working in us?
3. What has been your experience with having leaders who have gifts but are not poor in spirit?
4. Why is the situation in question 3 so dangerous to the body of Christ (the church)?
5. How does being a bondservant define your service to Christ and others? Think especially about how it defines the gift on your life.