



IDENTITY

SOLDIERS

IDENTITY - SOLDIERS PART 3 (SECOND LANGUAGE)

We have been looking at the passage below about being soldiers in Christ and for Christ.

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.

Or in other words;

2 Timothy 2:3-4 Be patient through pain and suffering with me, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. Any soldier who fights in a war does not become too busy with the things of everyday life. He only wants to fight well to please his captain.

This is the last part about our identity as a soldier. We will look at the words that say ***‘to please his captain.’***

There is only one Person that we need to please. This is our Lord and Saviour.

Q. Why is it so important that we please Jesus Christ and that He is our first priority (more important than anyone or anything else)?

Paul warns us in other letters. He warns us that he is afraid that the church has gone on the wrong path in her mind. This means the church does not have a strong loving relationship with her Lord and Saviour any more. Paul encourages the church and tries to persuade the church to come back to her first love. Her first love is loving Jesus Christ, the One who is Love, Light and Life.

The most important and exciting thing in our life is to glorify (give all honour and praise to) the Father. We can only glorify the Father if we have lost our lives. We must lay down our lives for the Father and his plans. Jesus only did what the Father wanted. He only wanted to do what the Father wanted. We cannot do what we want and what the Father wants at the same time. It is either one or the other.

Q. Be honest. Are you living for what you want or what the Father wants? Why?

God’s promises are for ALL his children. However, only some people will achieve these amazing promises and will show them NOW, today. Only people who do what the Father wants through His divine power, will be the lives that please Him.

1 Corinthians 2:9 but just as it is written, “Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him.”

Or in the other words;

1 Corinthians 2:9 This is written in the Bible ‘Things that no one has seen and no one has heard before. Things that no one has ever thought could happen. These are the things that God has prepared for His people who love him.’

How do we know all these things that God has ALREADY prepared? The key is the love that you have for Him. A



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person will be found in who they truly love and what they truly love. In other words we find our hearts in what we truly value. We aim to please who or what we truly love. There is no doubt of this.

If man loves someone or something, he will move heaven and earth for them (this is an idiom that means he will do absolutely everything he can possibly do to please the person or obtain or protect the thing). If we love Christ we will literally (actually) move heaven and earth for Him.

Q. What does a person's life look like if they are only interested in pleasing their captain (Jesus)?

As a group, write all these things down in your phones or on a piece of paper. Make sure that you can all see them and then read them out.

Q. What motivates people who are doing these things that you all wrote?

Q. What do these things make you think about in relation to your own life?

The key to transformation (not change) is to look at the facts and evidence in front of us. Then we need to decide to turn to the One who can do this powerful work in us. We must not hide or make excuses. We must not blame others. We must not try to justify ourselves or try to prove that other people are wrong. Instead we must look into the eyes of love (Jesus) and say, "Today I will decide to move towards you and away from me."

"Father, give me the power to be able to live the way I have decided. I want to live this way today, tomorrow, next week and also in the months and years ahead – Amen."

Q. What have we learned so far about ourselves and our identity in God of being sons, bondservants and soldiers?

ACTION POINT: What do we need to do to show what we have learned from our reading and discussion tonight?