

**Made in the
image of God;
In Christ;
Justified;
Adopted;
A new creation;
A saint.**

WHO
ARE
YOU

Really?

I AM A SLAVE

Every Christian Is A Slave

- “*Slave*” comes from the Greek word DOULOS, which occurs some 130 times in the Greek N.T.
- Definition – One who is “owned property, totally and unquestionably at the behest of the owner.”
(Concise Greek-English Lexicon of the NT, F. W. Danker, page 101)
- There are six other Greek words that mean “*servant*” and they nuance the idea of service in different ways.

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Slavery in the Old Testament:

- Captive of war. **(Deut. 20:10-18)**
- Foreigners who were bought and sold. **(Leviticus 25:44-46)**
- People sold into slavery because they defaulted on debts. **(Exodus 21:2-44; Deut. 15:12; 1 Sam. 22:3)**
- Acquired as a gift. **(Gen. 29:24)**
- Non-Hebrew slaves could be passed on from one generation to the next. **(Leviticus 25:44-46)**
- One could be born into slavery. **(Exodus 21:4; Leviticus 25:54)**
- Slaves could be freed, if they so chose, at the Jubilee Year.

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Slavery in the New Testament:

- DOULOS is sometimes used literally.
 - *“Bondservants, obey your earthly masters”* (Eph. 6:5)
 - *“Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly”* (Col. 4:1)
 - *“... no longer as a bondservant”* (Philemon 16)
- However, the term is most often used metaphorically to describe one who is under total obligation to surrender his will to the Lord Christ.

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Slavery in the New Testament:

- Paul called himself a *“slave of Christ Jesus.”* **(Romans 1:1)**
- Believers generally are slaves *“of obedience, which leads to righteousness.”* **(Romans 6:16)**
- The apostles were slaves of Christians *“because of Jesus.”* **(2 Corinthians 4:5)**
- Paul and Timothy were *“slaves of Christ Jesus.”* **(Philippians 1:1)**
- James identifies himself as *“a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ.”* **(James 1:1)**
- Peter and Jude were *“a slave ... of Jesus Christ.”* **(2 Peter 1:1; Jude 1)**
- John the apostle was the Lord’s *“slave.”* **(Revelation 1:1)**

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- Try to imagine a world in which the concept of slavery did not necessarily have a stigma attached to it.
- Might a slave under those circumstances choose to remain a slave rather than being set free?
- ⁵ *But if the slave plainly says, "I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,"* ⁶ *then his master shall bring him to God, and he shall bring him to the door or the doorpost. And his master shall bore his ear through with an awl, and he shall be his slave forever.* **(Exodus 21:5-6)**

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- ¹² *“This is My command: Love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than this, that someone would lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are My friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ I do not call you **slaves** anymore, because a **slave** doesn’t know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have heard from My Father. ¹⁶ You did not choose Me, but I chose you. I appointed you that you should go out and produce fruit and that your fruit should remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in My name, he will give you. ¹⁷ This is what I command you: Love one another.*
(John 15:12-17, CSB)

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- Jesus is our Lord!
 - Kurios (the Greek word) appears **747** times in the N.T.
 - “He to whom a person or thing belongs, about which he has power of deciding; one who has control of the person; master.” **(Thayer)**
 - Jesus is called “*Lord*” to designate His absolute rule, absolute dominion.
 - Jesus is referred to **92** times in the book of Acts.
 - **2** times he called “*Savior*.” **(cf. 5:31; 13:23)**
 - **90** times he is called “*Lord*.”
 - “*You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am.*”
(John 13:13)

“Why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you?”

(Luke 6:46)

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