

The Christian Life: A Life of Slavery

1) As Slaves We Recognize His Exclusive Ownership:

• The Beginning: Romans 6:17-22; "But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were délivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your member as slaves of righteousness for holiness. For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end everlasting life."

• But Now: 1 Cor. 6:19-20; "Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."

2) As Slaves We Recognize The Need For Complete Submission:

1 John 2:3 is explicit in this regard: "By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments."

3) As Slaves We Recognize Our Singular Devotion:

Slaves have only one primary concern: to carry out the will of the master. Our greatest concern is summed up in the words of Christ:

"And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength" (Mark 12:30).

Paul encouraged the Corinthians; "Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him" (2 Cor. 5:9).

Romans 14:18; we are told to do that which is "acceptable to God."

Paul tells us in Ephesians to:

"Walk worthy of the calling with which we were called" (4:1)

"That we should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their minds" (4:17)

"To walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us" (5:2)

"To walk as children of light" (5:8)

"To walk circumspectly" to walk different, carefully (5:15)

4) As Slaves We Recognize Our Total Dependence:

Matthew 6:31-33; "Therefore do not worry, saying, what shall we eat? Or what shall we drink? Or what shall we wear? For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added to you."

5) As Slaves We Recognize Our Personal Accountability:

2 Cor. 5:10; "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done."