

Born with Identity
Part 2: Servants and Slaves!
Slide Notations

Identity is an all important issue because knowing who we are determines what we do!

If you know... You are a carnal human being, sold out to sin, who does wrong when they want to do right, in whose flesh there is no good thing, one who is marching off to death as the wretched are... **R7.15-24**

Then you will live a wretched life... According to your expectations...

If you know... Delivered by Jesus Christ, no longer subject to condemnation, free from sin, Christ inside, adopted by God, supported by the Spirit, inseparable from God's love... R8

Emerge from wretched to royal! Seeking to live up to His expectations!

So far... Word and Spirit people! The foundation of everything Christian! w/o this first identifier, there is no true Christian identity! *No Word; we're just posers! No Spirit; just posing for pic's!*

The Word is our sustenance and the Spirit is our breath!

So far... Knowledge of the Word should come from consistent exposure! I would rather know that you know Pat Boone than have you know about him... One experience comes from studying, the other from standing with him!

Make the Word your best friend, and He will speak to you and stand up for you when necessary!

So far... Knowledge of the Spirit comes from interaction w/Him! The Holy Spirit is not an appendage of the Godhead... He is the functioning Godhead on earth!

He is not an experience to have... But someone to experience life with... moment by moment!

On the "word and spirit" foundation the next identifier must be "the model" Jesus left us – to serve God and man!

"Do you know what I have done? I have given you an example of service to follow..." **John 13.12-14**

"Let this mind be in you that was in Jesus who took on the form of a servant and humbled Himself and was obedient to the day He died..." **Ph 2.5-8**

But before we can get to the heart of servant/slave truth we have to get around the truth of servant/leader failure!

Last time together... Approached by a young girl wanting to ask a valid question... So apologetic: "sorry I'm taking up your time, I mean no disrespect, want you to know I hold you in highest respect..." Apprehensive approach to a "leader" "Approaching a mad dog..." approach!

Leaders have done that/not God! Jesus was very "yoke-up-able!" **Mt11.29**

Must deal with this failure before we can establish a true image of Servant/Slave Identity!

If it's wrong at the "leaders" level, it can only be worse at the "livin'-it" level! We got here by appointed leaders being blind(ed) to the Word of God and self-ruled rather than Spirit led!

The pitch... "Hypocrites love to be called by their names and titles in the marketplace, but you should not be like them! Don't let anyone call you Rabbi, for one is your Master, it's Me, and besides you are all just brothers! And call no man father upon the earth, for you have one Father in Heaven. And don't be called Master, for one is your Master – and again, it is Me! If you want to be great – be a servant! **Mt23.8-11**

Strike 1! "Let no one call you Rabbi..." Leaders love their titles and titles are separators/are counter-kingdom! Titles don't define who we are/do! What we do is not cause for "respect..." *"We cannot demand by title what we*

cannot command by performance!" I'm only a pastor, if I am, and if I am then I don't need a title to obtain respect!

If the "leaders" don't get it then why act surprised when the "ushers" or "deacons" or "teachers" don't? Slap a badge on a volunteer... they have learned the title makes them a boss!

The most successful churches are run by people who know that humbling themselves to serve gives them superior position with God, not men...

The pitch... "Don't give or pray or fast like hypocrites do... they love the glory of men, they want to be "seen," they want to appear to men to be devout... they do everything to be seen of men and they love the best rooms at the feasts and the best seats in the church and the sound of their names and titles in the marketplace. Woe to them, but as for you, just do all those things to be seen by your Father..." **Matt 6.1-18 23.6-7**

Strike 2! The issue of preeminence... If leaders, who call themselves servants of God, jockey for the lights and applause... Then why question a high-maintenance low output volunteer ministry force? 3x work to be seen, praised, honored by men... have your reward! (closed case) 3x work to be seen by Father... "will reward you openly!" (open ended!)

Most churches struggle for volunteers because most people are working for the wrong reason!

People give us value for a moment, God values our service eternally!

Heb 6.10 "For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which you have showed toward his name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister." As a believer I am working for the pleasure of the One who called me! **2T2.4** Laying up treasure in heaven where it can't be taken away! **Mt6.19-21**

The pitch... "You know that in the world, leaders exercise control over others and their great ones wield full privilege over them all – BUT IT WILL NOT BE SO AMONG YOU! IF YOU WANT TO BE GREAT YOU WILL BE THE SERVANT (diakonos) AMONG YOU AND IF YOU WANT TO BE THE VERY BEST (protos) YOU WILL BE MINISTER (doulos) TO ALL... JUST LIKE ME!" **Mark 10.42-45**

Strike 3! Leaders have made an art of exercising authority and taking privileges! Spiritual authority books/classes! Open doors/get my car/cut my grass! Do what I say because of who I am! Believe what I tell you! And "don't touch God's anointed!"

Jesus: "Servant good... Slave best!" (Progressive scale – no mention of worldly leadership)

Caveat! Not doing away with God's spiritual authority to rule His church! Not opening the way to anarchy! **Nu12** There is hierarchy in the church for same reason as in the family! **E4.11 5.23ff** For spiritual safety, accountability, responsibility... **But not superiority!**

Calling us back to propriety!

In the world, leaders rise to take control... they love to be envied for their privileges and honored for their titles... **And God laughs!**

But Word based and Spirit empowered leaders are modelers – of Christ –yielding control, privileged to serve and honored for their service... **whom the Lord loves!**