

Born with Identity
Part 4: Servants to Slaves
Slide Notations

“I have given you an example... that you should do as I have done to you!” -Jesus

So far... Word and Spirit people! The foundation of everything Christian! The Word is our sustenance and the Spirit is our breath! Servant and Slave people! Couldn't begin until we dealt with the failed model we have inherited from five-fold ministers...

So far... “Spiritual Leaders,” calling themselves servants of God, but acting like worldly rulers have corrupted the servant model; loving titles, ‘above all others’ preeminence, and, controlling others and wielding privileges... No wonder when we enlist “servants of God” we have such struggles! Where’s my badge? Who works for me? No one does what I say! Why don’t you honor me? Do I get a good parking spot?

“My kingdom is inverted from yours and My people are familiar, not distant; serving, not superior; empowering, not commanding!” Mt20.25ff

So far... Began exploring the “downward” progression of servant modeling: believer to servant to slave... Slaves don’t get “higher” in Christ, they go deeper into His lifestyle... Begin as believers... Christ redeemed... Call ourselves Christ-ians... too early/tell! Step down to begin serving as “diakonos” and the lines begin to narrow...

Servants... Diakonos: 30x servant/minister, deacon, waiter, attendant, errand runner! “Find people of honest report, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom/to serve.” **A6.3** “Deacons must be honorable, not double tongued, abstemious with wine, not open to dishonest gain, a clean conscience regarding the faith, proven faithful; then ministering without blame, their mates; the same, together, ruling their marriage, kids and household well.” **1T3.8-13**

Asides... Deacons: “abstemious:” moderate, sparing, bare minimum, use of wine... OT: “Do not give your ways to things that destroy kings. It is not for kings [and He has made us Kings/Priests for His Father. **Rev1.6**] to drink wine nor princes to drink liquor... give strong drink to those who are ready to die, to the bitter of soul, let them anesthetize their pain and remember their misery no more!” **Pr 31.1-7**

Recommendation... *If you are bitter of soul...* Pop the top on the “Word” that makes a heavy heart glad! **Pr12.25** Come to the “tree” that heals bitterness! **X15.23ff** And be filled w/the “Spirit” not drunk w/wine (dealing w/it’s baggage)! **E5.18** *If you are ready to die...* Put the bottle down, anoint your head with the oil of joy, go out in a blaze –struggle is over/reward is ahead! **Is61.3 2Cor5.1-8 Phil 1.21 Rev 7.17, 21.4**

Recommendation... “Be abstinent and alert because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking whom he may devour!” **1P5.8** “Let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.” **1Th 5.8** Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.” **1P1.13-16**

Join Jesus, all followers, who is not drinking of the fruit of the vine again until we all drink together, as a fresh experience, in His kingdom! Mt26.29, Mk 14.25, Lk 22.18

No one has ever said, ‘My life was going down the drain and then I found alcohol and now it’s so much better!’

And if you can take those recommendations... then you can step “down” one more level into fullness!

Servants, Level 2... Episkopos: 5x epi: over, skopos: scope/ watch (super-intendent!) Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task. Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God’s church?) He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil’s trap. **1Tim 3.1-7**

Servants, Level 2... This level of service has to do w/desire; a reach, a stretching, a longing... Diakonos are searched for and appointed! Episkopos desire a good work (also referred to as “elders: presbuteros” in **Titus 1.5 cp v7**) Confirmed by those set in the church! **E4.11** (whose arms are bent for ministry **1Cor 9.16**) And qualifications to meet! (14, narrowing the field again... increase)

Asides... Deacon: prosecho polos-oinos: abstemious: bare minimum... Episkopos: not “abstemious” but now, #3: “nepho:” abstinent from wine and #8: me par-oinos: not near wine... Every qualification/restriction being preparation for the deepest/best level of living experience... To be fully harnessed, completely profitable, and wholly owned by God!

To be able to truthfully say... I have no life!

I have no life... 95% of the time that is completely accurate... in the negative! Fool ourselves as we might, without God we have no life, just a counterfeit! “The words I speak are truth/life!” **J6.63** “I am the way/the truth/the life!” **14.6** We resist/deny/truth to our detriment! Trick is to discover it before heaven!

I have no life... 5% of the time that is becoming accurate... in the positive! No one is perfect/all in process... But we can be striving to have the life that is hidden in Him! “Straight is the gate and narrow is the way that leads to life and there are few that find it!” **Mt 7.14** I am dead w/Christ and living this life by His faith! **Gal 2.20** I am dead w/Christ to the elements of the world, my affections are set above, my life is hid in Him! **Col 2.20-3.3** In Christ I am a new creation! **2C5.17** Remember not the old life nor consider your old ways! **Is 43.18** If you love Me, keep my words! **J14.15**

If God is not the Life and Light of men, then don’t waste one more minute on Him!

1K18.21 CMV If God is the way, then don’t waste one more minute of your life, follow Him to the end of the earth! 1K18.21, Joshua 24.14 CMV And since He is the One, and we say we are going to Him, why are we braking now?

John 6.68-69 CMV

Final Clarifications... 1. We are servants to men and slaves to God! Slaves, obey and serve sincerely, doing all you do as unto the Lord and not merely unto men, knowing that from Him you receive your rewards! **Col 3.22-24** “You were purchased w/the highest price so glorify God with all you have!” **2C6.20** The world, family, friends will always try to reverse the order! Must have the will... 2. It’s a lifestyle not an add-on! “God forbid that I should glory in anything other than the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.” **Gal 6.14** You can’t ‘do church’ and then live another life the other 6½ days and succeed! We are not “slaving servants” but “serving slaves!” Lifestyle is full of good works laying up in store a good treasure/time to come! 3. We

can measure our progression: I'm yours, what're we going to do today? Partner w/God! I'm yours, whatever you want to do is fine! Humbled Partner! I'm yours! (understood and implied!) Wholly owned, completely cared for!

Why "Slaves?" Because One man, enslaved to the will of God, changed the world... and that's exactly what God wants from/for us... to be conformed into the image of His dear Son!