

Servants

Friday, September 22, 2023

6:57 AM

A brief series on who we are in Christ and what we do

1 Corinthians 4:1-2

4 This, then, is how you ought to regard us: as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed. 2 Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.

Paul is saying "this is who we are, this how you should think of us, this is what defines us and this is what should define you too..."

The foundational characteristic of who we are in Christ is seen in the fact that we are "Servants of Christ" And being a servant means that we have a relationship with the master we serve.

Have you ever heard someone say (or perhaps a line from a movie)... "What is this between us... Where is this going? We need to define the relationship" It's sometimes called "The Infamous DTR"

To understand what being a servant of Christ truly means, it is important for us to **define the kind of relationship** we have with Christ

It's not primarily defined by religion. You can be religious and not have a relationship with Jesus. You can go to church, read your Bible, pray, give, and even work for God's kingdom; and while these things are important and will be evident the life of someone who has a relationship with God; you can do all these things and still not have a relationship with God.

Characteristics of our Relationship with God

Belonging

- Servants "OF Christ"
- Ownership, Master

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NLT)

19 ...You do not belong to yourself, 20 for God bought you with a high price...

1 Corinthians 7:23

23 You were bought at a price...

- Under Rower

*Hey, I'm yours Lord:
Everything I've got,
Everything I am,
Everything I'm not.*

*I'm yours Lord: (oh yes)
Try me now and see,
See if I can be, (oh yes)
Completely yours.*

Surrender

- God does not kidnap us and force us into a relationship with Him
- He invites us and then leaves the choice of having a relationship up to us

Love and Intimacy

- John 3:16
- It is not abusive or one sided
- God loves us and has made it possible for us to have a relationship of love with Him

Forgiveness, Redemption and Transformation

1 John 2:2, 12 (Forgiveness)

2 He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

12 I am writing to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name.

Exodus 15:13 (Redemption)

13 In your unflinching love you will lead the people you have redeemed. In your strength you will guide them to your holy dwelling.

Isaiah 43:1

43 But now, this is what the Lord says—he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.

Luke 1:68

68 “Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them.

Colossians 1:13-14

13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

2 Corinthians 3:18 (Transformation - Our thinking, our speaking, our doctrine and theology, our lifestyles, our hearts)

18 And we all, ..are being transformed into his image...

Communication

- So many relationships fail because of lack of communication
- God speaks to us through His word, through prayer, in quiet leadings and impressions, through testimony and teaching of others, in worship, and even in that audible voice and He wants us to speak to Him

Hosea 6:3 (NLT)

3 Oh, that we might know the Lord! Let us press on to know him. He will respond to us as surely as the arrival of dawn or the coming of rains in early spring.”

Service

- Servants serve
- We serve God, and we serve others

Obedience

- Mary - May it be unto me according to your word

Faithfulness

- Must prove faithful

Deuteronomy 7:9

9 Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.

1 Corinthians 1:9

9 God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

2 Timothy 2:13

13 if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself.

Ephesians 1:1

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To God's holy people in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus:

Revelation 2:8-10

8 "To the angel of the church in Smyrna write: These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again. 9 I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know about the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. 10 Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown.

Exclusivity

- Can not serve two masters
- Serve God and Him alone
- God will not share you with others