

DOULOS

¹ *Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus...*

Romans 1:1

²³ *and you are of Christ, and Christ is of God.*

I Corinthians 3:23

¹⁹ *...you are not your own; ²⁰ you were bought at a price.
Therefore honor God with your bodies.”*

I Corinthians 6:19-20

“Something we were withholding made us weak
Until we found out that it was ourselves
We were withholding from our land of living,
And forthwith found salvation in surrender.”

The Gift Outright

Robert Frost

I. The Principal of Freedom

“Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God’s slaves.” I Peter 2:16

- A. We are born to serve. Freedom is a privilege reserved for the mature.
- B. Children have no freedom.
- C. Liberty is not license. We are never free to do wrong.
- D. Freedom is not the total liberty of human inclination, but rather a total submission to the right master.

II. The highest title in scripture.

Used by:

A. Paul (Romans 1:1) *Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus...*

B. James (James 1:1) *James, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ...*

C. Peter (II Peter 1:1) *Simon Peter, a slave and apostle of Jesus Christ...*

D. Luke and Silas (Acts 16:17) “...*These men are slaves of the Most High God, ...*”

E. Mary (Luke 1:38) “*I am the Lord’s slave,*” *Mary answered. ...*

F. The Lord, himself (Philippians 2:7) *rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a slave,...*

III. A deeper bondage / Four traits of a bond slave (Doulos)

A. Owned - A bondslave belonged entirely to his master.

* We can’t adequately serve God until he owns us.

B. Marked - A bondslave was branded with unique markings as a proof of ownership.

C. Devoted - A bondslave was given 100% to the master’s will, to the total disregard of his own.

D. Immune - A bondslave was guaranteed freedom from the opinions and criticism of others.

E. A bondslave was one deprived of his personal freedom in order that he might become an instrument solely in the hand of the Master.

F. A Master told the slave where to go, what to do, when to do it, how to do it, and how long to stay. He never explained why. ‘Why’ is the Master’s prerogative.

IV. A Glorious Slavery / Are you Bound or Free?

A. There are two types of obedience: Obedience which flows from fear or duty, and an obedience which flows solely from affection.

B. Affection based obedience, alone, equals Gods heart.

V. Liberty and Limitations

“All things are lawful for me, but...” I Corinthians 10:23

A. The test of Expediency - does this help, or hinder me?

B. The test of Enslavement - does this bring me into bondage?

C. The test of Edification - does this build me up, or tear me down?