

Servant or Slave of Jesus Christ?

When a person becomes a true Christian, many adjustments have to be made in their lives within their family, business, relationships and in the matter of their personal views of life in general.

In fact, the Creator God will not allow anything of ourselves remain.

God's finger will point to everything in our lives that is not Him, and will say *"that must go, are you willing?"*

When we *"stand back"* and consider the situation we have to admit that it is foolish to resist the Creator God, and always wise to submit to Him.

Romans 6:1-8 [New King James] *"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, **knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him**, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,"*

Being buried through baptism is an outward sign of what has already happened in our mind and "human" spirit, we died by crucifixion [verse 6] which is not an instant but prolonged death.

The combination of accepting Jesus Christ's death for all past sins to be forgiven and the death of our old way of living, physically, mentally and spiritually, will break us free from the slavery of sin, [verse 7].

Romans 6:9-11 [New King James] *"knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

We now live a new life with Jesus Christ as Lord.

The Greek word translated "Lord" is "Kurios" that means supreme controller in total authority over our life.

Paul went on in his letter to the Church at Rome to expand on this subject.

Romans 12:1-2 [NIV] *"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will."*

Two things, one referring back to the Old Testament, the type of sacrifice referred to was the burnt offering in which all was consumed in the fire on the altar. The other thing we need to understand is the Greek word used for "bodies" is "soma" meaning the whole life, physical body, mind and "human" spirit, [Job 32:8; 1 Corinthians 2:11; Proverbs 20:27].

Only then will the Creator God begin to re-educate us, causing us to become a being that is acceptable in the presence of a Holy Creator God, [verse 2]. This is accomplished by the active indwelling of the Holy Spirit, [Galatians 5:22-25].

This is how the “likeness” of Genesis 1:26-27 is formed in us to complete the plan of the Creator God for every physical human being, [2 Peter 3:9].

We all have to admit that at times we have controversies with the Creator God.

We know that He wants something while we desire something different.

We try to evade the issue by trying not to think about the subject, look into it or pray about it.

Yet we know in the “back of our mind” that this will bring us out of the will and power of the Creator God.

Only subjection to the Creator God’s desires for us will once again purify our consciousness and give us peace of mind.

We must first have a sense of the Creator God’s possession of us before we can have a sense of His presence.

When once His ownership is established, I then dare not do anything that is in my own interests, for I am His exclusive property.

Romans 6:16 [New King James] *“Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves **slaves** to obey, you are that one’s **slaves** whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?”*

The Greek word translated “slave” is “*dōulōs*” meaning a bond slave.

What is the difference between a servant and bond slave?

A servant may serve another person, but there is no ownership involved, a servant can give notice and seek another master.

A bond slave is looked on as the possession of his master.

How do I become the bond slave of Jesus Christ?

Acts 20:28 [New King James] *“Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which **He purchased with His own blood.**”*

Along with all other true Christians we are purchased by Jesus Christ, our price being His sacrificial death and shedding of His life blood on the cross.

By right of redemption we are the property of Jesus Christ, but we still have to be willing to offer our lives to Him, for He will never compel us to do so, for the transaction was one of giving love, one to another.

1 John 4:19 [New King James] *“We love Him because He first loved us.”*

We love Jesus Christ as His bond slave because He first showed even greater love for us.

The trouble with many who call themselves Christians today is that they have an insufficient idea of what the Creator God is asking of them.

How glibly they say “*Lord, I am willing to do anything to serve You,*” yet do **not** realise that the Creator God is asking for their very life.

There are cherished ideals, strong wills, precious relationships, much-loved work, that will have to go.

So do **not** give yourself to the Creator God unless you really mean it, the Creator God will take you seriously, even if you did **not** mean it that seriously.

Psalms 51:17 [New King James] “*The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart, these, O God, You will not despise.*”

We will find our lives will be broken apart. Everything seems to go wrong and we protest and find fault with God’s ways, but we stay there just a broken vessel.

No longer are we any use for this world in which we live, for we have gone too far from the world’s way of life.

Our giving ourselves to the Creator God must be an initial fundamental act, then, day by day, we must go on giving to Him, now not finding fault with the way He uses us.

We accept this new life with praise to the Creator God, even what we find hard to accept in the flesh. **This is how we are enriched with the very character of our Creator God and Saviour.**

Galatians 5:22-25 [New King James] “*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*”

This is how these “*fruits*” of the Holy Spirit, which are the characteristics of the Creator God we serve, become ours, through the active work of the Holy Spirit in our day-to-day life.

As a bond slave of Jesus Christ, whatever He, as my Master, ordains for me to do is sure to be the very best, for nothing but good can come to all those who are wholly His.

The key to this new life is to always be conscious that we are **not** our own, but are the bond slave of our Saviour and Master.

A final word of encouragement as we embark on this new life: we are joining a very elect group of human beings.

The human Jesus Christ – **Mark 10:43-45.**

Paul – **Romans 1:1.**

James – **James 1:1.**

Peter – **2 Peter 1:1.**

Jude – **Jude 1.**

John – **Revelation 1:1.**

These are but the few that are listed in the New Testament. A far greater number are unknown to us, only to their Master, the Creator God, Jesus Christ.