

Bond-servants Of Christ

S#1.

Text : **Ephesians 6: 5-8 ; Matthew 25: 14-30**

A. For the past three lessons we've been studying about our relationship with God.

1. We started off observing God's "*Incomprehensible Love*" for us. S#2.

- a. We observed that love is an acquired skill, not just a feeling.
- b. We noted that chemical processes in the body are often mistaken for love.
- c. We examined the context of Eph 3 especially Paul's pray to understand God's love
- d. Our study demonstrated the limitless bounds of God's love for man.
- e. We concluded that God's love is :
 So wide we can't get around it.
 So high we can't get over it.
 So deep we can't get under it.
 And so long it extends everyone.

2. We then proceeded to contemplate how we should be "*Responding To God's Love.*"

- a. It's normal to respond to kindness with kindness and to love with love.
 I John 4: 19 – We love because He first loved us.
- b. Not only is love the logical response to God, it is what God requires of man.
- c. A man's love for God is demonstrated by his willingness to submit to His rule.
- d. Love for God incorporates love for His family and for those created in His image.

3. Last lesson we addressed the tendency of some to say, "*Let's Just Get Along.*"

- a. We saw that neutrality is just a myth observing wars, government and Christians.
- b. Jesus clearly demands that everyone choose a side and participate saying :
 **Luke 11: 23 – He who is not with Me is against Me; and
 he who does not gather with Me scatters.**
- c. This demands Jesus be accepted as Son of God, as God, as creator, as sovereign.
- d. It also demands that one be an active participant in the ministry of Jesus.

B. With this lesson we want to apply these lessons as we identify ourselves as being "*Bond-servants Of Christ.*"

- 1. We will observe that all who serve God consider themselves as being His servants.
- 2. We will ask what it means to be a servant of God.
- 3. We will see that being a servant of God is not burdensome.

S#3.

I. Those who serve God have always identified themselves as His bond-servants.

A. In the O. T. those who followed God faithfully were called His servants. S#4.

1. Abraham

Gen. 26: 24 – Do not fear, for I am with you. I will bless you, and multiply your descendants, for the sake of My servant Abraham.”

2. Moses

II Chron. 24: 9 – They made a proclamation in Judah and Jerusalem to bring **S#5.** to the Lord the levy fixed by Moses the servant of God on Israel in the wilderness.

3. Caleb

Num. 14: 22-24 Surely all the men who have seen My glory ... **23** shall by no **S#6.** means see the land which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who spurned Me see it. **24** "But My servant Caleb, because he has had a different spirit and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land

4. David

Ezek. 24: 34 – "And I, the LORD, will be their God, and My servant David **S#7.** will be prince among them; I the LORD have spoken. ...”

5. The prophets

II Kings 9: 7 – ‘You shall strike the house of Ahab your master, that I may **S#8.** avenge the blood of My servants the prophets, and the blood of all the servants of the Lord, at the hand of Jezebel. (**Jer. 7: 25**)

6. The children of Israel

Isa. 44: 21 – Remember these things, O Jacob, And Israel, for you **S#9.** are My servant; I have formed you, you are My servant, O Israel, you will not be forgotten by Me. (**Luke 1: 54**)

B. People in the N.T. who are faithful to God are called His servants.**S#10.**

1. Jesus is referred to as the “Servant” of God.

S#11.

a. **Acts 3:13** – The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified His servant Jesus, the one whom you delivered and (**4:30**) disowned in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release Him.

b. **Mark 10: 45** – For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, **S#12.** but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

c. **Phil. 2: 7** – but (*Jesus*) emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.

c. **Isa. 42: 1** (etc.) ... Jesus was prophesied to be a servant.

2. The Apostle Paul often referred to himself as the “bond-servant of Christ.”

S#13.

Rom. 1: 1 – Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an Apostle, set apart..

3. The Apostle Paul’s companions were also referred to as servants of Christ.

a. **I Cor. 3: 5** – What then is **Apollos**? And what is Paul? **S#14.**

Servants through whom you believed.

b. **Phil. 1: 1** – Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons:

- c. **Col. 1: 7** – just as you learned it from **Epaphras**, our beloved **fellow bond-servant**, who is a **faithful servant of Christ** on our behalf, **S#15.**
- d. **Col. 4: 7** – As to all my affairs, **Tychicus**, our beloved brother and faithful servant and **fellow bond-servant in the Lord**, will bring you information.
- 3. The Apostle Peter self-identified as a “bond-servant” of Christ. **S#16.**
II Pet. 1: 1 – **Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,**
To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours,
by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ:
- 4. The Apostle John was Christ’s bond-servant. **S#17.**
Rev. 1: 1 – **The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to**
His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and
He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John,
- 5. James the Lord’s brother **S#18.**
James 1: 1 – **James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,**
To the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad: Greetings.
- 6. Jude the Lord’s brother **S#19.**
Jude 1: 1 – **Jude, a bond-servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, To**
those who are the called, beloved in God the Father, and kept for Jesus Christ:
- 7. The Apostles and their companions **S#20.**
Acts 4: 29-30 **And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that**
Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence,
30 while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders
take place through the name of Your holy servant Jesus.
- 8. Preachers are instructed to be bond-servants of Christ. **S#21.**
 - a. **I Tim. 4: 6** – **In pointing out these things to the brethren, you will be a**
good servant of Christ Jesus, constantly nourished on the words
of the faith and of the sound doctrine which you have been following.
 - b. **II Tim. 2: 24** – **The Lord’s bond-servant must not be quarrelsome,**
but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged,
- C. What’s the point I’m driving at ? **S#22.**
 - 1. Those who serve God have always been referred to as His servants.
 - 2. Jesus was referred to as and thought of Himself as a Bond-servant of God.
 - 3. The Apostles thought of themselves as “bond-servants of Christ.”
 - 4. The Apostles instructed others to view themselves as bond-servants of Christ.
 - 5. The Apostles referred to those faithful Christians with them as bond-servants.
 - 6. THUS ... to be a faithful Christians we must be servants of Christ. *Doers of His will.*
- D. How do you answer when someone asks you “What do you do?” **S#23.**

II. What does it mean to be a bond-servant of Christ ?**S#24.****A. The definition of a “bond-servant” .****S#25.**

1. “Servant” (*diakonos*) 1 one who executes the commands of another 1_A the servant of a king. 1_B a deacon 1_C a waiter, one who serves food and drink.
2. “Slave” (*doulos*) 1 a slave, bondman, man of servile condition. 1_A a slave. 1_B metaph., one who gives himself up to another’s will, ... 1_C devoted to another to the disregard of one’s own interests.
3. “Bond-servant” (*doulos*) Same above

B. In bible times, there were many ways to become a slaves.

1. Those captured in war became slaves.

S#26.

II Kings 5: 2 – Now the Arameans had gone out in bands and had taken captive a little girl from the land of Israel; and she waited on Naaman’s wife.

2. One could be born into servitude or sold as a slave.

Gen 17: 13 – A servant who is born in your house or who is bought with your money shall surely be circumcised; thus shall My covenant be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant. (**Exod. 21: 7-10** females)

3. One could willingly become the slave of another.

S#27.

Exod. 21: 5-6 But if the slave plainly says, ‘I love my master, my wife and my children; I will not go out as a free man,’ 6 then his master shall bring him to God, then he shall bring him to the door or the doorpost. And his master shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him permanently.

4. Servants of the rich or powerful had many advantages over the poor.
 - a. They were secure in their daily needs ... food, clothing, shelter.
 - b. They could earn and could advance . (*Some were more well educated than owners.*)
 - c. Daniel was a captive and he rose to be the second most powerful man in the world.

C. Christians are purchased by their choice and serve God willingly.**S#28.****III. For the Christian being a servant of God is not burdensome.****S#29.****A. The Christian gladly submits to God because he loves God.****S#30.**

1. **I John 5: 2-3** By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.
2. It is human nature to seek to please the one we love.

S#31.**B. Jesus honestly told us that following Him would entail bearing some burdens.**

1. **Matt. 11: 29-30** Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.
30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.

2. Thus, Jesus clearly states that there is a yoke and there is a burden to bear.

S#32.

C. One who feels the restrictions of Christianity burdensome has a spiritual problem

1. Jesus takes no one by force or in any way against his will.
 - a. Those drafted into the army often murmur and must be coerced to work.
 - b. All Christians are volunteers and may leave at any time.
2. All serve Jesus on the basis of love for Him and for God the Father.
John 14: 15 – If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

CONCLUSION :

S#33.

A. As created beings, all men are servants, but we can choose whom we will serve.

1. **Rom. 6: 16-18** Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone #34 as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness? 17 But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, 18 and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

B. When asked “What are you, or what do you do ?” How do you respond ? S#35.

1. Most state their vocation : Accountant, welder, saleswoman, secretary, farmer
2. Depending on the situation some respond with political affiliation, marital status, etc.
3. This is an indication of how one views himself and desires others to view him.

C. First and foremost a Christian should view him/herself as a bond-servant of God

1. Viewing ourselves as servants of God will affect our conversations and our actions
2. Others will not view us as servants of God unless they see us living as His servants.

INVITATION :

S#36.

A. Jesus wants servants who will proclaim His excellencies to the world .. lights.

B. Are you in His yoke and carrying His burden for lost souls ?

S#37.

C. DO YOU WANT TO BE ?

S#38. ... Communion slide

Lesson Text :**Ephesians 6: 5-8**

5 Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ; **6** not by way of eye-service, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart. **7** With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men, **8** knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free.

Matthew 25: 14-30

14 For it is just like a man about to go on a journey, who called his own slaves and entrusted his possessions to them. **15** "To one he gave five talents, to another, two, and to another, one, each according to his own ability; and he went on his journey. **16** "Immediately the one who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and gained five more talents. **17** "In the same manner the one who had received the two talents gained two more. **18** "But he who received the one talent went away, and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

19 Now after a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. **20** "The one who had received the five talents came up and brought five more talents, saying, 'Master, you entrusted five talents to me. See, I have gained five more talents.' **21** "His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

22 Also the one who had received the two talents came up and said, 'Master, you entrusted two talents to me. See, I have gained two more talents.' **23** "His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

24 And the one also who had received the one talent came up and said, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you scattered no seed. **25** And I was afraid, and went away and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what is yours.'

26 But his master answered and said to him, 'You wicked, lazy slave, you knew that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I scattered no seed. **27** Then you ought to have put my money in the bank, and on my arrival I would have received my money back with interest. **28** Therefore take away the talent from him, and give it to the one who has the ten talents.'

29 For to everyone who has, more shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. **30** Throw out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.