

Philippians Daily Walk

Theme 4: Identity

Day 2 — Philippians 1:1

Servants of Christ

Key Scripture

"Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, to all God's holy people in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons." — Philippians 1:1

Introduction

When introducing themselves, most people mention their occupation, accomplishments, education, or position in life. We often define ourselves by what we do, what we own, or what others think about us.

Paul could have introduced himself in many impressive ways. He was an apostle, missionary, church planter, theologian, and author of much of the New Testament. Yet when writing to the Philippians, he chose a different description:

"Servants of Christ Jesus."

This simple phrase reveals a profound truth about Christian identity. Before Paul was an apostle, he was a servant. Before he was a leader, he belonged to Jesus.

In a culture that often encourages self-promotion and personal achievement, Paul reminds believers that our true identity begins with belonging to Christ. We are His people, called to serve Him with humility, faithfulness, and joy.

Scripture Focus

Philippians 1:1

"Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus..."

Historical Context

The word translated as "servants" comes from the Greek word *doulos*, which literally means "bondservant" or "slave."

In the Roman world, a servant belonged to a master and lived to carry out the master's purposes.

Paul intentionally used this term to describe his relationship with Christ.

Far from being degrading, Paul considered it a privilege to belong completely to Jesus. His life was no longer defined by personal ambition but by faithful obedience to Christ.

This introduction sets the tone for the entire letter, which repeatedly emphasizes humility, service, and living for Christ.

What This Passage Teaches Us

1. Our Identity Begins with Belonging to Jesus

Paul's first description of himself is not his position but his relationship.

Before we are:

- Parents
- Employees
- Business owners
- Students
- Leaders
- Retirees

We are followers of Christ.

Our identity is secure because it is rooted in who we belong to.

Supporting Scripture

"You are not your own; you were bought at a price."
— 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Biblical Example

The disciples left their former identities to follow Jesus and became known as His followers.

Reference: Matthew 4:18-22

Application

How do you typically define yourself?

2. Serving Christ Is a Privilege

The world often views service as weakness.

Jesus viewed service as greatness.

Paul understood that serving Christ was not a burden but a privilege.

Supporting Scripture

"Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant." — Mark 10:43

Biblical Example

Jesus washed the disciples' feet, demonstrating the heart of a servant.

Reference: John 13:1-17

Application

Do you view serving Christ as an obligation or an opportunity?

3. Humility Is the Foundation of Christian Identity

Paul had many accomplishments, yet he chose a title rooted in humility.

The Christian life begins with surrender.

When we recognize Christ as Lord, we willingly place ourselves under His leadership.

Supporting Scripture

"God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." — James 4:6

Biblical Example

John the Baptist declared:

"He must become greater; I must become less." — John 3:30

Application

What areas of your life need greater humility before God?

4. Our Purpose Flows from Our Identity

Because Paul belonged to Christ, his life had clear direction and purpose.

When we understand who we are in Christ, we better understand why we are here.

God calls His servants to:

- Love others
- Share the Gospel
- Serve faithfully
- Reflect Christ
- Build His Kingdom

Supporting Scripture

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works." — Ephesians 2:10

Biblical Example

Isaiah responded to God's call by saying:

"Here am I. Send me!" — Isaiah 6:8

Application

How is God calling you to serve Him today?

5. Every Believer Is Called to Serve

Paul addresses all the believers in Philippi, not just church leaders.

Service is not reserved for pastors, missionaries, or church staff.

Every Christian has been given gifts and opportunities to serve.

Supporting Scripture

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others." — 1 Peter 4:10

Biblical Example

Dorcas faithfully served others through acts of kindness and generosity.

Reference: Acts 9:36-42

Application

What gifts has God given you that can be used to serve others?

Characteristics of a Servant of Christ

A Servant of Christ Is:

- Humble
- Faithful
- Obedient
- Compassionate
- Available
- Teachable
- Focused on God's glory

A Servant of Christ Is Not:

- Self-centered
 - Prideful
 - Driven by recognition
 - Concerned primarily with personal gain
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Biblical Examples of Servanthood

Jesus

The ultimate example of a servant.

Reference: Philippians 2:5-8

Lesson:

True greatness is found in serving.

Moses

Served God's people despite challenges and criticism.

Reference: Exodus

Lesson:

Faithful servants trust God through difficulties.

Timothy

Served alongside Paul with humility and dedication.

Reference: Philippians 2:19-22

Lesson:

God uses willing servants.

Mary

Willingly submitted to God's plan for her life.

Reference: Luke 1:38

Lesson:

Servants trust God's purposes.

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think Paul chose to call himself a servant of Christ?
 2. How does the world define success differently than Jesus?
 3. What does it mean to belong to Christ?
 4. Why is humility important in serving God?
 5. How can serving others strengthen our faith?
 6. What gifts or abilities has God given you to serve others?
 7. How can you better reflect the attitude of a servant this week?
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Personal Reflection

Take a few moments to consider:

- What currently defines my identity?

- Am I finding my worth in Christ or in accomplishments?
- How willing am I to serve without recognition?
- What area of service is God calling me toward?

Spend time thanking Jesus for making you part of His family.

Weekly Challenge

Begin Each Day with This Prayer

"Lord, I belong to You. Show me how I can serve You today."

Look for Opportunities

- Encourage someone.
- Help someone in need.
- Serve at church.
- Pray for others.
- Share God's love through your actions.

Reflect Each Evening

Ask yourself:

"Did I live today as a servant of Christ?"

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You for calling me to belong to Jesus. Help me find my identity in Him rather than in the things of this world. Teach me to serve with humility, faithfulness, and joy. Give me a heart that seeks Your will above my own and a desire to reflect Christ in all I do. May my life bring honor to You as I faithfully serve as Your disciple. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Key Takeaway

Our identity is not found in what we achieve but in who we belong to. As servants of Christ, we find purpose, joy, and meaning by faithfully following and serving Him.