

BONDSERVANT

Philippians 1:1-11 - Part I

BONDSERVANT

Paul and Timothy,
BOND-SERVANTS of
Christ Jesus, To all
the saints in Christ
Jesus who are in
Philippi, including
the overseers and
deacons (Phil. 1:1).





What does it mean practically speaking to be a BONDSERVANT? Exhibit #1 - Paul's Time in Philippi

Acts 16:6-40

1. Guided by the Spirit (to Macedonia)
2. Shared the gospel (and had converts)
3. Experienced demonic resistance
4. Experienced social and political opposition
5. Had compassion (on the jailer)
6. Shared the gospel (some converted)
7. Encouraged the converts

Is every believer called to be a BONDSERVANT?

Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants (*doulos*) of God. 1 Pet. 2:16 [potential]

not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as slaves (*doulos*) of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart. Eph. 6:6 [potential]

For he who was called in the Lord while a slave (*doulos*), is the Lord's freedman; likewise he who was called while free, is Christ's slave (*doulos*). 1 Cor. 7:22

Greek meaning of *doulos*

Spiros Zodhiates, Greek scholar states that ...

doulos is "A slave, one who is in a permanent relation of servitude to another, his will being altogether consumed in the will of the other (Matt. 8:9; 20:27; 24:45, 46). Generally, one serving, bound to serve, in bondage" (Rom. 6:16, 17).

What does that mean theologically?

Every believer is purchased from the “slave market” of sin. Paul writes, “¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰ For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body (1 Cor. 6:19). How? We “give our bodies as a ‘living sacrifice.’” We voluntarily serve (*doulos*) God with our lives! (Rom. 12:1-2)

THIS IS A *DOULOS*, A SERVANT OF CHRIST!

Is Jesus a *doulos*?

⁶ [Christ Jesus] who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant [*doulos*], *and* being made in the likeness of men. ⁸ Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Phil. 2:7-8

Bondservant Duties #1, #2, #3
Greeting, Gratitude, Prayer for the Brethren (1:2-4)

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³ I (constantly) thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴ always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all,

Bondservant Duties #4:
Participation in the gospel (1:5-6)

⁵ in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ *For I am* confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it [devoid of sin nature] until the day of Christ Jesus [Jesus' return for His church; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Rom. 8:28-30].

Bondservant Duties #5:
Love for fellow believers (1:7-9)

⁷ For it is only right for me to feel this way about you all, because I have you in my heart, since both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers of grace with me. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I long for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment,

Bondservant Duties #6:
Walking blamelessly (1:10-11)

¹⁰ so that you may approve [discern (the) worthiness of] the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ; ¹¹ having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which *comes* through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Living as a Bondservant of Christ
(_____, is a bondservant of Christ Jesus
(Acts 16:6-40; Phil. 1:1-11)

Duties, Truths, and Experiences of a Bondservant

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

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_____.

Living as a Bondservant of Christ
(_____, is a bondservant of Christ Jesus
(Acts 16:6-40; Phil. 1:1-11)

Duties, Truths, and Experiences of a Bondservant

1. Allow the Spirit of God to guide you.
2. Share the gospel at every opportunity.
3. We will experience demonic resistance to the gospel and righteousness.
4. We will experience social and political opposition to righteousness.
5. We should have compassion on all the lost.
6. We should take the opportunity to encourage believers.
7. We should warmly greet other believers when we meet them.
8. We should thank God regularly for other believers.
9. We should pray for other believers (with joy).
10. We should (living out “participate in” the gospel (i.e., live out our spiritual freedom to love God and serve others).
11. We should live knowing that God is working everything in our lives and experiences to make us like Christ [no make us happy].
12. We should love others with the affection of Christ – an unlimited love.
13. When we live this way, we “discern” the worthiness of this Christlike life, all the while preparing ourselves for His arrival. We also become “conduits” of God’s grace and bring praise and glory to Him.