

Romans 1:1 Who Are You?

Paul opens his letter to the Romans with three distinct facts about his identity in Christ. We can easily see that how God worked in Paul is very similar to how He works in all of us.

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Who are you?

God's Purchase

-God's Purpose

-God's Process

God's Purchase

"Slave/Bondsman" = doulos (δοῦλος); a slave, one owned by another; one whose will is wholly given over to the will of his master.

-There are 8 Greek words in the New Testament that describe various servants. -Paul uses the lowest of them all.

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Exodus 21

1 Corinthians 6:19–20 — Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you... and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

1 Peter 1:18–19 — knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things... but with the precious blood of Christ.

*Murray- "A servant of Christ is one who has surrendered the ownership of his life."

*Tozer- "The man who has truly met God has ceased to be concerned about himself."

While many men today are negotiating with God their terms for being a Christian, Paul had no terms, he was a slave.

Luke 17:10 — "So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable [slaves]. We have done what was our duty to do.'"

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God's Purpose

“Called” = klētos (κλητός); invited, summoned, appointed; one who has been called by God to a specific role or purpose.

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Romans 8:28 — to those who are the called according to His purpose.

God did not just save you from something.
He saved you for something.

Ephesians 2:10 — For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

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Ephesians 4:1 — I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

Philippians 3:14 — I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 1:9 — [God] has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace...

2 Peter 1:10 — Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble;

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How many who are purchased ever discover their purpose?

Psalms 139:14 — I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made

Romans 12:3-8

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You will never find your ultimate calling if you won't walk in what He has called you to today.

*Lynch-Fined

*Clement of Rome- “Let us therefore... act according to the order which the Lord has prescribed to us.”

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God's Process

“Set apart / Separated” = aphorizō (ἀφορίζω); to mark off by boundaries, to set apart for a specific purpose, to designate for special service.

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Sanctification is the process by which God separates your life from sin and dedicates it completely to Himself.

1 Thessalonians 4:3 — For this is the will of God, your sanctification.

John 17:17 — Sanctify them by Your truth.

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Separated from birth

Galatians 1:15 — But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace,

Jeremiah 1:5 — “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.”

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Separated at conversion

Acts 9:11— So the Lord said to him, “Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying.

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Separated from his past

Philippians 3:7-8 — But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ

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Separated unto ministry

Acts 13:2 — As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”

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Matthew 7:13-14 — “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. “Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

Few are purchased.

-Fewer discover their purpose.

-Fewer still embrace the separation required to fulfill that purpose.

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Death is the ultimate separator.

*Muller- “There was a day when I died — utterly died — died to George Müller, his opinions, preferences, tastes, and will; died to the world, its approval or censure; died to the approval of my brethren and friends; and since then I have studied only to show myself approved unto God.”

*MLJ- Martyrs are men who know what they believe.

*Ignatius of Antioch- “I am the wheat of God, and I shall be ground by the teeth of wild beasts, that I may be found the pure bread of Christ.”

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The Disciples had given up their lives long before their lives were taken.

*Spurgeon- “I have now concentrated all my prayers into one: that I may die to self and live wholly to Him.”

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Who are you?

Slave of Jesus Christ = What Paul Was & Who he served

-Apostle = What Paul does, his calling

-Separated = How he lived

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Is your identity in Christ?

2 Corinthians 5:17 — Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Romans 6:4 — 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.

Galatians 2:20 — I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me...

Colossians 3:3 — For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Romans 14:8 — For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

Christianity is not merely about believing certain truths about Jesus.
It is about belonging to Jesus.

Who are you?