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**IMITATING GOD MUST BE DEMONSTRATED IN OUR  
RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS.**

Ephesians 5:1–2  
Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

**TRUE IDENTITY**  
A Deep Dive Into The Book Of Ephesians

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## Ephesians 6:5–9

Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free. Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.

TRUE IDENTITY  
A Deep Dive Into The Book Of Ephesians

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## Do

### Historical Context And Principles

- Bondservants

*In Roman culture a person and family enslaved to a master to repay a debit. Typically, this would extend 7 years, unless the bondservant served the household of Ceasar; bondservant served at least 14 years to Ceasar.*

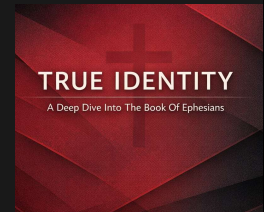
TRUE IDENTITY  
A Deep Dive Into The Book Of Ephesians

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## Do

### Historical Context And Principles

- Bondservants
- Up one third of the residents lived as bondservants
- Not a call to abolish  
Snapshot Philemon



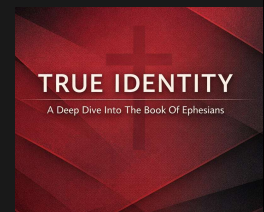
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## Do

### Historical Context And Principles

#### Obey

- Earthly masters
- Fear and trembling
  - Respectful submission to authority
  - Ultimate allegiance



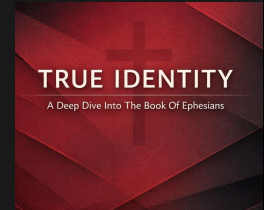
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## Do

### Historical Context And Principles

#### Obey

- Earthly masters
- Fear and trembling
- Sincere heart
  - Everyone is created by God's design
  - As to the Lord – the desire for salvation



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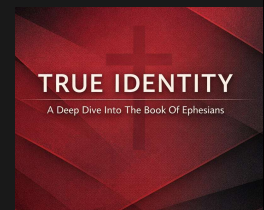
## Do

### Historical Context And Principles

#### Obey

#### Avoid

- Insincere attitudes and actions to please others
- Rooted in selfish ambition and not to Christ
- Eye-pleasers – heart and actions are not inline with pure motivates



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## Do

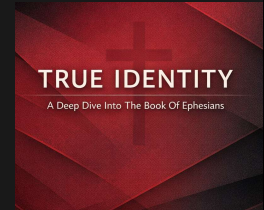
### Historical Context And Principles

Obey

Avoid

### Matters Of The Heart

- Ultimately called to serve Christ
- Doing the will of God – glorifying God in all things
- Pure sacrifice and worship comes from the heart not through mere actions



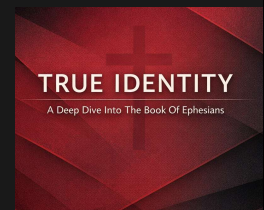
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## DIRECT

### Historical Context And Principles

- Masters

*In Roman culture, a master had the ability to issue harsh treatment, abuse, and even to end life of a servant. A master could also sell the bondservant as any other piece of property.*

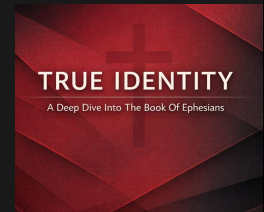


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## DIRECT

## Historical Context And Principles

- Masters
- First generation believers in the church
- Multi-ethnic gathering with harsh cultural division



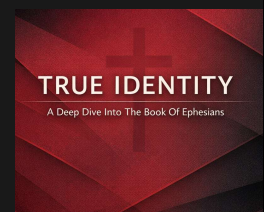
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## DIRECT

## Historical Context And Principles

## View Of Others

- As an individual created and loved by God
- Not as an object to abuse, mistreat, or destroy
- Not with idle threats or harsh consequences



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## DIRECT

Historical Context And Principles

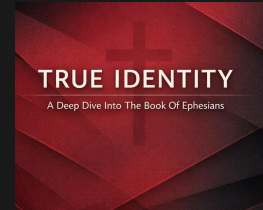
View Of Others

Justice And Fairness

- Responsibility render justice
- Maintaining fairness in all manners

Colossians 4:1

Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.



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## DIRECT

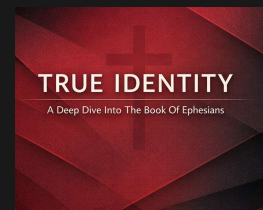
Historical Context And Principles

View Of Others

Justice And Fairness

Demonstration Not Domineering

- Spoken and reflected
- Not spoken and refracted

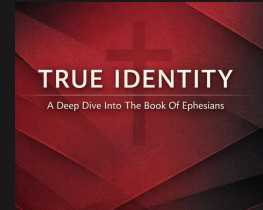


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## DEMONSTRATE

### Known Certainties

- Personal actions will be rewarded
  - Proper actions do not go unnoticed by God  
Ephesians 6:8  
...knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free.

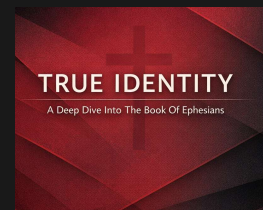


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## DEMONSTRATE

### Known Certainties

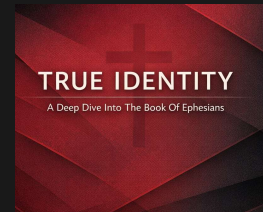
- Personal actions will be rewarded
  - Proper actions do not go unnoticed by God -  
Ephesians 6:8
  - Inheritance is from God – Colossians 3:23–24
  - Justice is from God – Colossians 3:25



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## Colossians 3:23–25

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.



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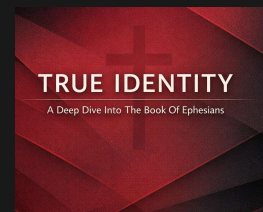
## DEMONSTRATE

Known Certainties

Equal Ground

- No partiality with God – Ephesians 6:9; Colossians 3:25
- All have the same Master – Colossians 4:1
- As believers, all one body – Colossians 3:11

Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.



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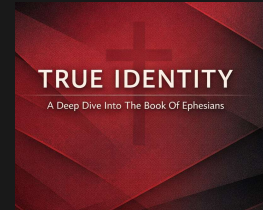
## DEMONSTRATE

Known Certainties

Equal Ground

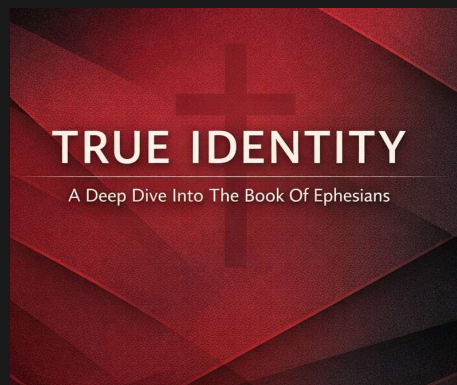
Practical Principles

- Make disciples as you go – Matthew 28:19-20
- Pray continually – Ephesians 6:18-20
- Pray in faith for wisdom – James 1:5-8
- Keep the top two the top two – Matthew 22:34-40
- Imitate God – Ephesians 5:1,2
- Imitate Christ – 1 Peter 2:18-25



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## Are You A God Imitator?



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## DEMONSTRATE

### Imitators

The goal is not to upend a system, the goal is to plant seeds for a new heart

