

A Case of Identity

1. Identity – definition:
2. Identity – examples:
3. Identities in the New Testament:
4. Identity & Behavior:
5. A very important identity:

	Who is named?	Who are they?
James 1:1		
Romans 1:1		
Phil 1:1		
Gal 1:8-10		
2 Tim 2:2, 24-26		
Acts 4:29-31		
2 Pet 1:1		
Rev 1:1		
Rev 19:5-6		
Rev 19:9-10		
Rev 22:3		

6. Our Model
7. Who are you?

Discussion Questions

1. What are the common ways in which people identify themselves? Does each of these identifications communicate something about behavior? If so, what?

2. Throughout the NT the authors identify themselves according to their relationship to Jesus Christ in what common way? Do most Christians identify themselves in this way? If not, how do they identify themselves? Why don't most Christians identify themselves in the same way as the NT authors?

3. What is so important about correctly identifying who we are in relation to Jesus Christ?

4. What does it mean to be a "doulos" of the "Lord" Jesus Christ?

5. If someone is not a "doulos" of Jesus Christ, then who are they according to the Bible? (see 2 Tim 2:24-26; John 8:34-47; 1 John 3:4-10) What are the implications of this?

6. If Jesus is your Lord, and therefore you are His slave, then He has the right to determine how you should live your life (Read 2 Cor 5:15). Is your DAILY mindset that you no longer belong to yourself, but to Christ, and therefore your desire is to serve and please him in all that you do? Think deeply and honestly about your answer to this question.

7. In light of your answer to the previous question, are there any specific changes Jesus wants you to make in your life right now? Are there any things He wants you to get rid of? Are there any things He wants you to add?

8. The Bible clearly teaches that those in Christ will always be a "doulos." (see Rev 19:5-10; 22:3) Why is this a good thing, and how might this affect the way we think and live in this life?

9. What passages in the Bible tell us what we should do when we fail to live in a way that is consistent with the relationship we have with Jesus Christ? Are you grateful for the truth in these passages? If so, why?

10. What have you learned from this study today? How will you change as a result of what you have learned? What is your specific plan for change? Who can hold you accountable for this change?

1 John 3:6-10a – “No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. ⁷ Little children, **let no one deceive you**. Whoever practices righteousness **is** righteous, as he is righteous. ⁸ Whoever makes a practice of sinning **is** of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. ⁹ No one **born of God** makes a practice of sinning, **for** God’s seed abides in him; and he **cannot keep on sinning**, because he has been **born of God**. ¹⁰ By this it is **evident** who **are** the children of God, and who **are** the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is **not of God**”



James 1:1 – “James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ”

James 1:1 – “James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ”

1. James is not the only one in the NT who uses that word as an identity
2. The word in Greek is “**doulos**,” which many say is better translated as “**SLAVE**”
3. The meaning of “doulos” conveys a powerful truth about a person’s identity.

Complete Word Study Dictionary of the New Testament

Doulos:

A slave, one who is in a permanent relation of servitude to another, his will being altogether consumed in the will of the other

Theological Dictionary of the New Testament

“The distinctive feature of the self-awareness of the Greek is **the thought of freedom**. The Greek finds his personal dignity in the fact that **he is free**. Thus his self-awareness stands out sharply from anything which stands under the concept of a δουλος (**a slave**). For where there is a δουλος (**a slave**) human autonomy is set aside and **an alien will takes precedence of one’s own**. This does not mean that there is no place for the thought of service in the Greek world... *What is repudiated is service after the manner of the δοῦλος (a slave), who not only has no possibility of evading the tasks laid upon him but who also has no right of personal choice, who must rather do what another will have done, and refrain from doing what another will not have done...* Hence the Greek can only **reject** and **scorn** the type of service which... ***bears even the slightest resemblance to that of the slave.***”



Romans 6:17-18; 20-23 - "17 But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, 18 and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness."

"20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. 21 But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. 22 But now that you have been set free from sin and **have become slaves of God**, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, **eternal life**. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."



Rom 1:1 - "Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God"

Phil 1:1 - "Paul and Timothy, slaves of Christ Jesus"

Gal 1:10 - "For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a slave of Christ."



2 Tim 2:24-25a - "And **the Lord's slave** must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness"

Acts 4:29 - "And now, **Lord**, take note of their threats, and grant that Your **slaves** may speak Your word with all confidence"

2 Peter 1:1 - "Simon Peter, a **slave** 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"



Revelation 1:1 - "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His **slaves**, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His **slave** John"



Revelation 19:5 - "And a voice came from the throne, saying,
"Give praise to our God, all you His slaves, you who fear Him,
the small and the great"



Revelation 19:5 - "And a voice came from the throne, saying, "Give praise to our God, all you His slaves, you who fear Him, the small and the great"

Revelation 19:9-10 - "And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are the true words of God." 10 Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow slave with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus."



Revelation 22:3 - "There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His slaves will serve Him"



Revelation 5:11-12 - "Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice,

"**Worthy** is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"



Phil 2:5-8 - "Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped."

"but emptied Himself, taking the form of a **slave**, and being made in the likeness of men"

"Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming **obedient** to the point of death, even death on a cross."



(1) You are a slave of Christ who embraces and lives according to that identity

- I Praise the Lord with you!
- Just like the Apostle Paul instructed the Thessalonians, I encourage you to excel still more.
- Don't let up in the spiritual battle as the enemy seeks to deceive you, to make you ineffective and not as fruitful
- Remind yourself daily that you owe total allegiance to your Master
- Each day think not about what you want to do today, but what does my Lord want me to do today

(2) You are a slave of Christ who does NOT regularly recognize your true identity

- You are not bearing fruit as you should,
- You may be under the discipline of your loving heavenly Father (Heb 12:3-11)
- You may be involved in some sin you need to repent of
- You may be rebelling against the life your Master wants for you
- If this is you, repent and start living according to your true identity –
- Remember that Jesus is your Lord and you are his slave.
- Make sure that you seek His kingdom every day.
- Identify the sins your involved in which the devil has deceived you and repent of them. Memorize Eph 4:1 and start living that way – “I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called”

Continue to study and meditate on Eph 6:10ff, and go back and listen to Paul’s sermons so that you gain victory in the spiritual battle



(3) You are a slave to sin and the devil, having actively rejected Jesus Christ your entire life

- You've never repented of your sin and accepted Christ's offering of forgiveness and eternal life.
- You're content to be a slave of the devil, living to do his will, even though you may not know this or admit that this is your true identity.
- If today were your last day, tomorrow you would begin an eternity separated from God in a horrible place beyond imagination.
- Be warned that there is nothing on this earth worth holding onto, even your own life, if it means your soul must spend eternity in hell.
- The good news, however, is that forgiveness and eternal life are available to you in a heartbeat.

If you repent of your sin and surrender your life to Jesus as your Savior and Lord, you can **become** his slave today.



(4) You are a slave to sin and the devil, who thinks they are right with Christ, yet your lifestyle proves that you are not.

- You are living a life of practicing sin with no desire of repenting and living for Christ alone.
- You may be one of the “**many**” Jesus teaches about in Matthew 7, that someday will say “**Lord, Lord**” but he says, “**depart from me, I never knew you, you who practice lawlessness**”
- If this IS you, I fear for you the most.
- You have been deceived to think that you’re headed for eternal life, because you come to church or do some good things
- But these things will not make you a slave of Christ, nor will they save you.
- If your life is a characteristic of living for yourself, then this may be your true identity.
- If this is you, I ask you to stop deceiving yourself

Repent and believe and surrender your life to the Lord Jesus Christ, for real.

