

Message Five
Christ as the Slave of God
and the Believers as Slaves of God and Christ Jesus
in the Church Life

RK *Hymns* 913, 463

Scripture Reading: Exo. 21:1-6; Phil. 2:7-8; Mark 10:45;
 Luke 22:24-27; Rom. 1:1; James 1:1; Gal. 5:13

Exo 21:1 Now these are the ordinances which you shall set before them.
 Exo 21:2 If you buy a Hebrew servant, he shall serve six years; but in the seventh he shall go out free without payment to you.
 Exo 21:3 If he came in by himself, he shall go out by himself; if he is the husband of a wife, then his wife shall go out with him.
 Exo 21:4 If his master gives him a wife and she bears him sons or daughters, the wife and her children shall be her master's, and he shall go out by himself.
 Exo 21:5 But if the servant plainly says, I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free;
 Exo 21:6 Then his master shall bring him to God and shall bring him to the door or to the doorpost, and his master shall bore his ear through with an awl; and he shall serve him forever.
 Phil 2:7 But emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming in the likeness of men;
 Phil 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, and that the death of a cross.
 Mark 10:45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many.
 Luke 22:24 And a contention also occurred among them as to which of them seemed to be greatest.
 Luke 22:25 And He said to them, The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who have authority over them are called benefactors.
 Luke 22:26 But you shall not be so; but let the greatest among you become like the youngest, and the one who leads like the one who serves.
 Luke 22:27 For who is greater, the one who reclines at table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? But I am in your midst as the one who serves.
 Rom 1:1 Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, a called apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,
 James 1:1 James, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes in the dispersion: Rejoice!
 Gal 5:13 For you were called for freedom, brothers; only do not turn this freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

I. The spirit of the ordinance in Exodus 21:1-6 is the spirit of a slave, the spirit of service and of sacrifice—Rom. 1:1; Titus 1:1; Phil. 1:1; James 1:1:

Exo 21:1 Now these are the ordinances which you shall set before them.
 Exo 21:2 If you buy a Hebrew servant, he shall serve six years; but in the seventh he shall go out free without payment to you.
 Exo 21:3 If he came in by himself, he shall go out by himself; if he is the husband of a wife, then his wife shall go out with him.
 Exo 21:4 If his master gives him a wife and she bears him sons or daughters, the wife and her children shall be her master's, and he shall go out by himself.
 Exo 21:5 But if the servant plainly says, I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free;
 Exo 21:6 Then his master shall bring him to God and shall bring him to the door or to the doorpost, and his master shall bore his ear through with an awl; and he shall serve him forever.
 Rom 1:1 Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, a called apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,
 Titus 1:1 Paul, a slave of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ according to the faith of God's chosen ones and the full knowledge of the truth, which is according to godliness,
 Phil 1:1 Paul and Timothy, slaves of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the overseers and deacons:
 James 1:1 James, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes in the dispersion: Rejoice!
 A. A slave does not stand on his own rights; he knows only to serve and to sacrifice, not to

care for his own interests—Matt. 20:28.

Matt 20:28 Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many.

- B. To be a slave is to have the spirit of sacrifice; a slave is always willing to care for others, to serve them, and to sacrifice himself for them—Phil. 2:17.

Phil 2:17 But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice, and I rejoice together with you all.

- C. Love is the basis of a slave's service—Exo. 21:5; 2 Cor. 5:14; 12:15:

Exo 21:5 But if the servant plainly says, I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free;

2 Cor 5:14 For the love of Christ constrains us because we have judged this, that One died for all, therefore all died;

2 Cor 12:15 But I, I will most gladly spend and be utterly spent on behalf of your souls. If I love you more abundantly, am I loved less?

1. Love is the motive and the prerequisite for a slave's continual service.

2. The love of a slave is followed by obedience— John 14:31; Phil. 2:8.

John 14:31 But this is so that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father commanded Me, so I do. Rise, let us go from here.

Phil 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, and that the death of a cross.

II. The slave in Exodus 21:1-6 is a type of Christ as the Slave of God, who sacrificed Himself to serve God and God's people—Matt. 20:28; Eph. 5:2, 25:

Exo 21:1 Now these are the ordinances which you shall set before them.

Exo 21:2 If you buy a Hebrew servant, he shall serve six years; but in the seventh he shall go out free without payment to you.

Exo 21:3 If he came in by himself, he shall go out by himself; if he is the husband of a wife, then his wife shall go out with him.

Exo 21:4 If his master gives him a wife and she bears him sons or daughters, the wife and her children shall be her master's, and he shall go out by himself.

Exo 21:5 But if the servant plainly says, I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free;

Exo 21:6 Then his master shall bring him to God and shall bring him to the door or to the doorpost, and his master shall bore his ear through with an awl; and he shall serve him forever.

Matt 20:28 Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many.

Eph 5:2 And walk in love, even as Christ also loved us and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor.

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her

- A. The subject of the Gospel of Mark is Christ as the Slave of God, the Slave-Savior—10:45:

Mark 10:45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many.

1. Mark's purpose is to provide a detailed record to show the beauty of the Lord Jesus as the Slave of God in His human virtues—5:34; 6:34; 8:23; 10:14-16.

Mark 5:34 And He said to her, Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be well from your affliction.

Mark 6:34 And getting out, He saw a great crowd, and He was moved with compassion for them because they were like sheep not having a shepherd, and He began to teach them many things.

Mark 8:23 And He took hold of the hand of the blind man and led him forth outside the village. And He spat on his eyes and laid His hands on him and asked him, Do you see anything?

Mark 10:14 But Jesus, seeing it, was indignant and said to them, Allow the little children to come to Me. Do not forbid them, for of such is the kingdom of God.

Mark 10:15 Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a little child shall by no means enter into it.

- Mark 10:16 And taking them into His arms, He fervently blessed them, laying His hands on them.
2. **When the Lord Jesus was on earth, He was a Slave who had no rights.**
 3. **In His gospel service the Lord Jesus was a Slave not only to God but also to man—
Matt. 20:28; Luke 22:24-27; Phil. 2:7; Acts 3:13.**

Matt 20:28 Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many.

Luke 22:24 And a contention also occurred among them as to which of them seemed to be greatest.

Luke 22:25 And He said to them, The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who have authority over them are called benefactors.

Luke 22:26 But you shall not be so; but let the greatest among you become like the youngest, and the one who leads like the one who serves.

Luke 22:27 For who is greater, the one who reclines at table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? But I am in your midst as the one who serves.

Phil 2:7 But emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming in the likeness of men;

Acts 3:13 The God of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified His Servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release Him.
 4. **Mark 10:45 reveals that, as the Slave of God, the Lord Jesus served sinners even with His life, His soul; by giving His life as a ransom for sinners, the Lord Jesus accomplished the eternal purpose of God, whom He served as a Slave.**

Mark 10:45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many.
 5. **As the Slave of God, the Lord Jesus taught His disciples, at the very time they were striving to be first, to take the position of a slave—vv. 35-45.**

Mark 10:35 And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying to Him, Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask You.

Mark 10:36 And He said to them, What do you want Me to do for you?

Mark 10:37 And they said to Him, Grant to us to sit, one on Your right and one on Your left, in Your glory.

Mark 10:38 But Jesus said to them, You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup which I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?

Mark 10:39 And they said to Him, We are able. And Jesus said to them, The cup which I drink you shall drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you shall be baptized.

Mark 10:40 But to sit on My right or on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.

Mark 10:41 And when the ten heard this, they began to be indignant concerning James and John.

Mark 10:42 And Jesus called them to Him and said to them, You know that those who are esteemed as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them.

Mark 10:43 But it is not so among you; but whoever wants to become great among you shall be your servant,

Mark 10:44 And whoever wants to be first among you shall be the slave of all.

Mark 10:45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many.
- B. Although the Lord Jesus was equal with God and had the highest rank in the universe, He became a person on the lowest level of society; He not only became a man, but emptying Himself and humbling Himself, He became a Slave—Phil. 2:6-8:**
- Phil 2:6 Who, existing in the form of God, did not consider being equal with God a treasure to be grasped,
- Phil 2:7 But emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming in the likeness of men;
- Phil 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, and that the death of a cross.
1. **Christ's work in His human living to build up the fashion of a man and take on the**

form of a slave was the foundation and background of His ministry—v. 8a.

Phil 2:8a And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, ...

2. **The pattern presented in Philippians 2:5-8 is now the life within us; there is an urgent need among us to experience Christ as such a pattern.**

Phil 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus,

Phil 2:6 Who, existing in the form of God, did not consider being equal with God a treasure to be grasped,

Phil 2:7 But emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming in the likeness of men;

Phil 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, and that the death of a cross.

3. **“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus” (v. 5); this is the mind that was in Christ when He emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, and humbled Himself, being found in fashion as a man.**

- C. **As the Slave of God, the Lord Jesus stood in the position of doing nothing on His own but acting only according to the word of the Father—Exo. 21:6; John 5:19, 30, 36; 6:38; 7:16; 8:26; 12:49; 17:4.**

Exo 21:6 Then his master shall bring him to God and shall bring him to the door or to the doorpost, and his master shall bore his ear through with an awl; and he shall serve him forever.

John 5:19 Then Jesus answered and said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, The Son can do nothing from Himself except what He sees the Father doing, for whatever that One does, these things the Son also does in like manner.

John 5:30 I can do nothing from Myself; as I hear, I judge, and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will but the will of Him who sent Me.

John 5:36 But I have the testimony which is greater than that of John, for the works which the Father has given Me to finish, the works themselves which I do, testify concerning Me that the Father has sent Me.

John 6:38 For I have come down from heaven not to do My own will but the will of Him who sent Me.

John 7:16 Jesus therefore answered them and said, My teaching is not Mine, but His who sent Me.

John 8:26 I have many things to say and to judge concerning you, but He who sent Me is true, and what I have heard from Him, these things I speak to the world.

John 12:49 For I have not spoken from Myself; but the Father who sent Me, He Himself has given Me commandment, what to say and what to speak.

John 17:4 I have glorified You on earth, finishing the work which You have given Me to do.

- D. **The New Testament reveals the threefold love of the Lord Jesus for the Father, the church, and the saints—Exo. 21:5; John 14:31; Eph. 5:25, 2; Gal. 2:20.**

Exo 21:5 But if the servant plainly says, I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free;

John 14:31 But this is so that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father commanded Me, so I do. Rise, let us go from here.

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her

Eph 5:2 And walk in love, even as Christ also loved us and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor.

Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

- E. **As the Slave of God, the Lord Jesus was obedient unto death; His death on the cross was an act of obedience—John 14:30-31; Phil. 2:8:**

John 14:30 I will no longer speak much with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and in Me he has nothing;

John 14:31 But this is so that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father commanded Me, so I do. Rise, let us go from here.

Phil 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, and that the death of a cross.

1. **Because the Lord Jesus loved God the Father, He kept the Father's word not only as a Son but especially as a Slave— John 5:19; 12:48-50; 17:8, 14.**
 - John 5:19 Then Jesus answered and said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, The Son can do nothing from Himself except what He sees the Father doing, for whatever that One does, these things the Son also does in like manner.
 - John 12:48 He who rejects Me and does not receive My words has one who judges him; the word which I have spoken, that will judge him in the last day.
 - John 12:49 For I have not spoken from Myself; but the Father who sent Me, He Himself has given Me commandment, what to say and what to speak.
 - John 12:50 And I know that His commandment is eternal life. The things therefore that I speak, even as the Father has said to Me, so I speak.
 - John 17:8 For the words which You gave Me I have given to them, and they received them and knew truly that I came forth from You, and they have believed that You sent Me.
 - John 17:14 I have given them Your word, and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world even as I am not of the world.
2. **The Lord listened to God and did God's will by keeping His word— 4:34; 12:49; Psa. 40:6; Isa. 50:4-5.**
 - John 4:34 Jesus said to them, My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work.
 - John 12:49 For I have not spoken from Myself; but the Father who sent Me, He Himself has given Me commandment, what to say and what to speak.
 - Psa 40:6 You do not delight in sacrifice and offering; / You have prepared ears for Me; / You do not require burnt offering and sin offering.
 - Isa 50:4 The Lord Jehovah has given me / The tongue of the instructed, / That I should know how to sustain the weary with a word. / He awakens me morning by morning; / He awakens my ear / To hear as an instructed one.
 - Isa 50:5 The Lord Jehovah has opened my ear; / And I was not rebellious, / Nor did I turn back.

III. The apostle Paul followed the Lord Jesus to be a slave— Rom. 1:1; Titus 1:1; Acts 20:19:

- Rom 1:1 Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, a called apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,
 - Titus 1:1 Paul, a slave of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ according to the faith of God's chosen ones and the full knowledge of the truth, which is according to godliness,
 - Acts 20:19 Serving the Lord as a slave with all humility and tears and trials which came upon me by the plots of the Jews;
- A. **Paul was such a slave by the serving and sacrificing life of Christ—Phil. 2:17.**
 - Phil 2:17 But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice, and I rejoice together with you all.
 - B. **As a slave of Christ and of God, Paul was willing to empty himself, humble himself, and sacrifice his rank, rights, and privileges—1 Cor. 9:19-23.**
 - 1 Cor 9:19 For though I am free from all, I have enslaved myself to all that I might gain the more.
 - 1 Cor 9:20 And to the Jews I became as a Jew in order that I might gain Jews; to those under law, as under law (though I myself am not under law), that I might gain those under law.
 - 1 Cor 9:21 To those without law, as without law (though I am not without law to God but within law to Christ), that I might gain those without law.
 - 1 Cor 9:22 To the weak I became weak that I might gain the weak. To all men I have become all things that I might by all means save some.
 - 1 Cor 9:23 And I do all things for the sake of the gospel that I may become a fellow partaker of it.
 - C. **Paul had the spirit of a slave—Rom. 1:1, 9; 2 Cor. 1:12; 2:13; 10:1.**
 - Rom 1:1 Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, a called apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,
 - Rom 1:9 For God is my witness, whom I serve in my spirit in the gospel of His Son, how unceasingly I make mention of you always in my prayers,
 - 2 Cor 1:12 For our boasting is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in singleness and sincerity of God, not in fleshly wisdom but in the grace of God, we have conducted ourselves in the world,

- and more abundantly toward you.
- 2 Cor 2:13 I had no rest in my spirit, for I did not find Titus my brother; but taking leave of them, I went forth into Macedonia.
- 2 Cor 10:1 But I myself, Paul, entreat you through the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who (as you say) in person am base among you, but while absent am bold toward you,
- D. **Paul had the love of a slave; he was a person who loved the church—5:14; 12:14-15; 11:28.**
- 2 Cor 5:14 For the love of Christ constrains us because we have judged this, that One died for all, therefore all died;
- 2 Cor 12:14 Behold, this third time I am ready to come to you, and I will not be a burden; for I do not seek what is yours but you. For the children ought not to store up for the parents, but the parents for the children.
- 2 Cor 12:15 But I, I will most gladly spend and be utterly spent on behalf of your souls. If I love you more abundantly, am I loved less?
- 2 Cor 11:28 Apart from the things which have not been mentioned, there is this: the crowd of cares pressing upon me daily, the anxious concern for all the churches.
- E. **Paul had the obedience of a slave—Acts 9:6; 22:10; 26:19; Phil. 2:8, 12; 2 Cor. 2:9; 7:15; 10:6.**
- Acts 9:6 But rise up and enter into the city, and it will be told to you what you must do.
- Acts 22:10 And I said, What shall I do, Lord? And the Lord said to me, Rise up and go into Damascus, and there it will be told to you concerning all the things which have been appointed to you to do.
- Acts 26:19 Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,
- Phil 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, and that the death of a cross.
- Phil 2:12 So then, my beloved, even as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only but now much rather in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;
- 2 Cor 2:9 For to this end also I wrote, that I might know your approvedness, whether you are obedient in all things.
- 2 Cor 7:15 And his affections are abundantly toward you, he remembering the obedience of you all, how you received him with fear and trembling.
- 2 Cor 10:6 And we are ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

IV. If we would take Christ as our pattern and follow Paul's example, we must learn to be slaves and sacrifice everything for others—Gal. 5:13:

- Gal 5:13 For you were called for freedom, brothers; only do not turn this freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.
- A. **A slave knows only to serve and to sacrifice, not to care for his own interests—Luke 1:38.**
- Luke 1:38 And Mary said, Behold, the slave of the Lord. May it happen to me according to your word. And the angel departed from her.
- B. **We need to empty ourselves, humble ourselves, lower ourselves, not claim anything for ourselves, and sacrifice ourselves to serve others—1 Cor. 9:19-23.**
- 1 Cor 9:19 For though I am free from all, I have enslaved myself to all that I might gain the more.
- 1 Cor 9:20 And to the Jews I became as a Jew in order that I might gain Jews; to those under law, as under law (though I myself am not under law), that I might gain those under law.
- 1 Cor 9:21 To those without law, as without law (though I am not without law to God but within law to Christ), that I might gain those without law.
- 1 Cor 9:22 To the weak I became weak that I might gain the weak. To all men I have become all things that I might by all means save some.
- 1 Cor 9:23 And I do all things for the sake of the gospel that I may become a fellow partaker of it.
- C. **We need to know the position of a slave—Exo. 21:6:**
- Exo 21:6 Then his master shall bring him to God and shall bring him to the door or to the doorpost, and his master shall bore his ear through with an awl; and he shall serve him forever.
1. **Our position as slaves of Christ should be at the doorpost.**
 2. **The slave's ear was opened to listen to the master—Isa. 50:4-5.**

Isa 50:4 The Lord Jehovah has given me / The tongue of the instructed, / That I should know how to sustain the weary with a word. / He awakens me morning by morning; / He awakens my ear / To hear as an instructed one.

Isa 50:5 The Lord Jehovah has opened my ear; / And I was not rebellious, / Nor did I turn back.

3. **Many Christians are serving God, but they do not stand by the doorpost, and their ear has not been bored through— Exo. 21:6:**

Exo 21:6 Then his master shall bring him to God and shall bring him to the door or to the doorpost, and his master shall bore his ear through with an awl; and he shall serve him forever.

a. **They act on their own, not in accord with what they hear from the Master— Matt. 7:21-23.**

Matt 7:21 Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord, will enter into the kingdom of the heavens, but he who does the will of My Father who is in the heavens.

Matt 7:22 Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, was it not in Your name that we prophesied, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name did many works of power?

Matt 7:23 And then I will declare to them: I never knew you. Depart from Me, you workers of lawlessness.

b. **They do many things according to their own concepts, desires, and intentions— Phil. 1:15-17.**

Phil 1:15 Some preach Christ even because of envy and strife, and some also because of good will,

Phil 1:16 These out of love, knowing that I am set for the defense of the gospel.

Phil 1:17 But the others announce Christ out of selfish ambition, not purely, thinking to raise up affliction in my bonds.

V. A slave lives to the Lord, not to himself—2 Cor. 5:14-15; Rom. 14:7-8:

Rom 14:7 For none of us lives to himself, and none dies to himself;

Rom 14:8 For whether we live, we live to the Lord, and whether we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore whether we live or we die, we are the Lord's.

A. **In 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 Paul speaks of living to the Lord:**

2 Cor 5:14 For the love of Christ constrains us because we have judged this, that One died for all, therefore all died;

2 Cor 5:15 And He died for all that those who live may no longer live to themselves but to Him who died for them and has been raised.

1. **To live to the Lord is to take Him as the aim of our living; in everything we do, Christ should be our unique aim— Rom. 14:7-8.**

Rom 14:7 For none of us lives to himself, and none dies to himself;

Rom 14:8 For whether we live, we live to the Lord, and whether we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore whether we live or we die, we are the Lord's.

2. **To live to the Lord means that we are under the leading and constraint of the Lord to fulfill His demand, satisfy His desire, and accomplish His purpose—2 Tim. 1:9; 3:10.**

2 Tim 1:9 Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before the times of the ages

2 Tim 3:10 But you have closely followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, long-suffering, love, endurance,

3. **To live to ourselves means that we are under our own control and direction and that we care for our own aims and goals.**

4. ***To the Lord* implies that we are the Lord's possession, that we already belong to Him; *for the Lord* implies that we are still our own and are according to our pleasure and convenience.**

5. Living for the Lord implies that we and the Lord are still two; living to the Lord indicates that we are one with the Lord—1 Cor. 6:17.
 1 Cor 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.
- B. Living to the Lord is based upon the fact that we are the Lord's; we belong to Him—Rom. 14:7-8:
 Rom 14:7 For none of us lives to himself, and none dies to himself;
 Rom 14:8 For whether we live, we live to the Lord, and whether we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore whether we live or we die, we are the Lord's.
1. We need to realize that the Lord bought us with the great price of His precious blood—1 Cor. 6:19-20; 1 Pet. 1:18-19.
 1 Cor 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?
 1 Cor 6:20 For you have been bought with a price. So then glorify God in your body.
 1 Pet 1:18 Knowing that it was not with corruptible things, with silver or gold, that you were redeemed from your vain manner of life handed down from your fathers,
 1 Pet 1:19 But with precious blood, as of a Lamb without blemish and without spot, the blood of Christ;
2. Now He is our Lord and Master, and we belong to Him.
3. All that we have, all that we do, and all that we are, are to Him; everything is wholly to Him, and now we should live to Him—Rom. 14:7-8.
 Rom 14:7 For none of us lives to himself, and none dies to himself;
 Rom 14:8 For whether we live, we live to the Lord, and whether we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore whether we live or we die, we are the Lord's.

VI. In the church life we all should be slaves—Phil. 1:1; Col. 1:7; 4:7, 12; 2 Pet.

1:1:

- Phil 1:1 Paul and Timothy, slaves of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the overseers and deacons:
- Col 1:7 Even as you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow slave, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf,
- Col 4:7 All the things concerning me, Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow slave in the Lord, will make known to you,
- Col 4:12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a slave of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God.
- 2 Pet 1:1 Simon Peter, a slave and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have been allotted faith equally precious as ours in the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ:
- A. Only those who are willing to be slaves can remain permanently in the church life—Rom. 12:11.
 Rom 12:11 Do not be slothful in zeal, but be burning in spirit, serving the Lord.
- B. The Lord Jesus taught us not to be above others but instead to place ourselves lower than others and be their slaves— John 13:1-5, 12-15.
 John 13:1 Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus knowing that His hour had come for Him to depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the uttermost.
 John 13:2 And while supper was taking place, the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, that he should betray Him,
 John 13:3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all into His hands and that He had come forth from God and was going to God,
 John 13:4 Rose from supper and laid aside His outer garments; and taking a towel, He girded Himself;
 John 13:5 Then He poured water into the basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.
 John 13:12 Then when He had washed their feet and taken His outer garments and reclined at the table

- again, He said to them, Do you know what I have done to you?
 John 13:13 You call Me the Teacher and the Lord, and you say rightly, for I am.
 John 13:14 If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.
 John 13:15 For I have given you an example so that you also may do even as I have done to you.
- C. In the church life there is no rank; we are all brothers, and we must all serve as slaves—James 1:1; Jude 1; Rev. 1:1; 6:11; 10:7; 11:18; 22:3, 6.**
- James 1:1 James, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes in the dispersion: Rejoice!
 Jude 1 Jude, a slave of Jesus Christ and a brother of James, to those who are called, beloved in God the Father, and kept by Jesus Christ:
 Rev 1:1 The revelation of Jesus Christ which God gave to Him to show to His slaves the things that must quickly take place; and He made it known by signs, sending it by His angel to His slave John,
 Rev 6:11 And to each of them was given a white robe; and it was said to them that they should rest yet a little while, until also the number of their fellow slaves and their brothers who were about to be killed, even as they were, is completed.
 Rev 10:7 But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel when he is about to trumpet, then the mystery of God is finished, as He has announced the good news to His own slaves the prophets.
 Rev 11:18 And the nations became angry, and Your wrath came, and the time came for the dead to be judged, and the time to give the reward to Your slaves the prophets and to the saints and to those who fear Your name, to the small and to the great, and to destroy those who destroy the earth.
 Rev 22:3 And there will no longer be a curse. And the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His slaves will serve Him;
 Rev 22:6 And he said to me, These words are faithful and true; and the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent His angel to show to His slaves the things which must quickly take place.
- D. All who believe in Christ, belong to Him, and have His life of service and sacrifice should take Him as their pattern by learning to be slaves, loving God, the church, and God's people; with such a love as our motivation, we need to be slaves sacrificing and serving—Mark 10:42-45; Phil. 2:5-8; Gal. 5:13; Eph. 5:2; Rom. 1:1.**
- Mark 10:42 And Jesus called them to Him and said to them, You know that those who are esteemed as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them.
 Mark 10:43 But it is not so among you; but whoever wants to become great among you shall be your servant,
 Mark 10:44 And whoever wants to be first among you shall be the slave of all.
 Mark 10:45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many.
 Phil 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus,
 Phil 2:6 Who, existing in the form of God, did not consider being equal with God a treasure to be grasped,
 Phil 2:7 But emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming in the likeness of men;
 Phil 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, and that the death of a cross.
 Gal 5:13 For you were called for freedom, brothers; only do not turn this freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.
 Eph 5:2 And walk in love, even as Christ also loved us and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor.
 Rom 1:1 Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, a called apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,
- E. In carrying out God's New Testament economy, we need to have the spirit of a slave, the love of a slave, and the obedience of a slave—Phil. 2:5; 1 Cor. 9:19.**
- Phil 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus,
 1 Cor 9:19 For though I am free from all, I have enslaved myself to all that I might gain the more.