
The Pursuit of Holiness

Serving in Servitude

*New Hope Community Church
Dr. Jack Bracy, March 18, 2018*

“¹⁸ Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. ¹⁹ For this is a gracious thing, **when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly.** ²⁰ For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. ²¹ **For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example,** so that you might follow in his steps. ²² He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³ When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to

sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.” **1 Peter 2:18–25, ESV**

“Slaves, obey your earthly masters with deep respect and fear. Serve them sincerely as you would serve Christ.” **Ephesians 6:5, NLT**

“Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.” **Colossians 3:23, NLT**

“Don’t repay evil for evil. Don’t retaliate with insults when people insult you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. **That is what God has called you to do,** and he will grant you his blessing.” **1 Peter 3:9, NLT**

In Christ, the Rules of Life Have Changed

To Be in Christ Is to Live in a Land with Different
Rules and a Different Ruler

I Either Take Up the Kingdom Life or I Will Remain
Miserable and Powerless

To Live Holy unto God Is to Live Wholly for God

Many NT Christians Were Already Slaves When They Gave Their Lives to Christ

Let's Unpack This Passage in The Context
of Being Christ's
Bond Servant

1. **When I Become a Follower of Christ,
Life Is No Longer About Me**

As a Follower of Christ My Primary Concern Is to
Glorify Jesus
By My Lifestyle and My Behavior

¹⁹ For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God,
one endures
sorrows while suffering unjustly

A Follower of Christ Seeks to Have a Mind Full of
The Things of God and The Person of God

2. A Follower of Christ Gets in More Trouble for Doing Good Than Doing Bad

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The Emphasis Is on Living A Life Where I Am
A Channel of Grace

I Am Living A Life Receiving Grace

“Each time he said, “My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.” So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me.” **2 Corinthians 12:9, NLT**

I Am Living A Life Giving Grace

As a Follower of Christ...

- 1) I Live to Give My Life Away in Love
- 2) I Live to Connect Others to Christ with Compassion

²¹ For to this you have been called...

There Is No Higher Calling Than to Be the Kind of
Person

Who Can and Will Connect Others to Jesus

3. This Is the Calling of a Follower of Christ, Regardless of My Status or Circumstances

Don't Make It About Your (Master) Problems;
Make It About Your God