

# A SPIRIT OF SLAVERY vs A SPIRIT OF SONSHIP

## I. INTRODUCTION

A. ***Romans 8:14, 15 “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons (mature sons) of God. For ye have not received the Spirit of bondage again to fear; but you have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry Abba, Father.”***

1. We have not RECEIVED a spirit of bondage (slavery), but we often live under bondage and fear.
2. It is easy to look to a loving Jesus who died on the cross for me.
3. It is important in our spiritual growth and development to relate with the Father, but we find it difficult to enter into a Son (child) relationship.
4. We need a balance: to walk in a love relationship with Jesus Christ and come under the will and the AUTHORITY of the Father.

B. ***John 8: 28, 29 Jesus said: “. . . I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things. And He that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please Him.***

1. A RELATIONSHIP with the Father brings:
  - a. Restrictions and directions.
  - b. His will, not my will.
2. If you listen, then speak and do what the Father says, you will always be in His will.
3. Have you considered His will TODAY ?
4. We need balance: A love relationship with Jesus and the will and authority of the Father.

## II. WHAT IS A SLAVE? - - - WHAT IS A SON?

### A. **NEEDS vs BIRTH**

1. **A SLAVE** Is ACCEPTED appreciated on the basis of what he does (meet the needs of the household).

- A SON** Is accepted and appreciated on the basis of who he is.
2. **A SLAVE** Is in the HOME because there is a job to be done.
- A SON** Is in the home because he was born. He is a member of the family.
3. **A SLAVE** Purpose is to meet a NEED.
- A SON** Purpose is to find God's purpose for his life and fulfill it.

***1 John 3:8 "For this purpose the Son of God was manifested that He might destroy the works of the devil."***

God had a plan for Jesus life.  
God has a plan for your life!

## **B. VALUE vs RELATIONSHIP**

1. **A SLAVE** Is accepted because of his WORKMANSHIP, what he can do.
- A SON** Is accepted because of relationship. (family)
2. **A SLAVE** Is accepted because of productivity; what he can produce.
- A SON** Belongs because of his position as a person.
3. **A SLAVE** Is DISPOSABLE. He operates under a profit and loss system. To maintain his position, he must remain profitable.
- A SON'S** Position doesn't change.
4. **A SLAVE** Starts the day anxious and worried, wondering if his work will really please his master.
- A SON** Rests in the SECURE love of his family.

## **C. LIVING UNDER LAW vs LIVING UNDER LOVE**

1. **A SLAVE** **Proves his worth.** Has peace of mind at the end of a day only if he has proven his worth by his work. The next morning the anxiety begins again.
- A SON** **Status is secure.** Can be secure all day and know tomorrow won't change his status.

2. **A SLAVE** Fails, his whole POSITION is at stake; he may lose his job.  
**A SON** Fails, he will be grieved because he hurt his parents. He will be corrected and disciplined – not THROWN out.
3. **A SLAVE** Needs permission.  
**A SON** Has rights.
4. **A SLAVE** Works to PRODUCE fruit.  
**A SON** Eats the fruit of his labor.
5. **A SLAVE** Lives under authority.  
**A SON** Lives under LOVE.
6. **A SLAVE** Is directed by commands.  
**A SON** Is directed by love.
7. **A SLAVE** Follows others.  
**A SON** Initiates and LEADS.
8. **A SLAVE** Is governed by law.  
**A SON** Is governed by GRACE.
9. **A SLAVE** Must be told to take the land.  
**A SON** Sees the land and WANTS to take it.
10. **A SLAVE** Looks back at what God has done for them.  
**A SON** Looks forward to what God will do through them.
11. **A SLAVE** Expected to be SUCCESSFUL.  
**A SON** Expected to be faithful.
12. **A SLAVE** Manipulates for position and love.  
**A SON** Knows and rests in his position and love.
13. **A SLAVE** Is INTIMIDATED by others.  
**A SON** Walks in confidence.

14. **A SLAVE** Understands God's deeds.

**A SON** Understands God's WAYS.

#### D. **WORSHIPING UNDER LAW vs WORSHIPING UNDER LOVE**

1. **A SLAVE** Worships what God has done.

**A SON** Worships who God IS.

2. **A SLAVE** Worships because of duty.

**A SON** Worships because of love.

3. **A SLAVE** Worships to EARN God's favor.

**A SON** Worships because he has God's favor.

4. **A SLAVE'S** Worship is structured.

**A SON'S** Worship is spontaneous. He sees and celebrates the fingerprints of God.

### III. ARE YOU A SLAVE OR A SON?

A. Are you are LIVING under a spirit of slavery?

B. Are you serving God like a slave? What value am I? Am I profitable?

C. Are you crying out to ABBA FATHER ?

*Romans 8:15 . . . "you have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba Father."*

D. Slavery is not received from God!

*Romans 8:15 " You have not received a spirit of bondage again to fear . . ."*

E. LOVE wants to set you free!!

### IV. WHERE DOES SLAVERY COME FROM?

#### A. **SLAVERY COMES FROM WITHIN**

1. REJECTION

a. LOVE and acceptance are basic needs for a child to develop self-worth.

b. If a child has no self-worth, then he will "do something" to be "worth

something.”

- c. Example “little Susie.”
- d. If a person doesn’t perform, then he’s WORTH nothing.
- e. Religion becomes law; working your way into God’s favor. If I do enough, God will love and accept me.

## 2. PRIDE

- a. Pride produces PERFECTIONISM.
- b. A person tries to achieve levels of worth by what he can do.
  - \* Performance
  - \* Perfectionism
  - \* Critical Spirit
  - \* Unforgiving
  - \* Self-Centered
- c. The person BECOMES a people pleaser.

## 3. GUILT & CONDEMNATION

- a. Driven by guilt to perform. “I must witness to everyone I see; if I don’t I’m condemned.”
- b. If God leads you, then WITNESS; not when you’re driven by condemnation.
  - \* Ought
  - \* Should
  - \* Must
  - \* Better
- c. ***Romans 8:1 “There is therefore now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus.”***

## 4. SUMMARY

- a. A spirit of slavery is driving, striving, working, performing.
- b. It produces BURNOUT in the natural and in the spiritual.
- c. A person must “work” and “perform.” He is very poor in relationships.

## B. SLAVERY COMES FROM WITHOUT

### 1. EXPECTATIONS OF MEN

- a. Does your self-worth depend on what other people THINK about you?  
*Galatians 1:10 "For do I now seek the favor of men or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ."*
- b. Are you always STRIVING to measure up to what people think?  
*Ephesians 6:6 "Not with eyeservice as menpleasers, but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart. . ."*
- c. Don't be a slave of men.  
*I Corinthians 7:23 "Ye are bought with a price, be not ye the servants of men."*
- d. Get free from men and their EXPECTATIONS.
- e. A man or women of God can't be a man pleaser, ruled by the **opinions** of men, **expectations** of men or the **fear** of men.

## 2. CHURCH STRUCTURES

- a. A spirit of slavery can operate in the CHURCH by giving one another value for what they can do.
- b. Church members take "profit and loss statements" on each other; they devalue a person if he or she can't perform or if they have a lot of problems.
- c. Pastors and leaders are treated like slaves.
- d. A church should be BUILT on our relationship with God and our relationships with each other. Out of these relationships comes unconditional love.
- e. From God's love comes healing and the releasing of His transforming power.
- f. A spirit of slavery comes from:
- i. ABSOLUTE authority in the church (extreme discipleship); not being allowed to make any decisions on your own - - - being told who to date, who to marry, where to work, etc.
  - ii. *I Timothy 2:5 "For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."*

- iii. We are RESPONSIBLE to God first, then we submit to one another.
- iv. Discipleship is biblical, but Satan distorts and perverts the truth.

3. MARRIAGE

- a. EXCESSIVE authority exercised by either the husband or the wife; completely dominated and controlled by spouse.
- b. Not being allowed to make decisions or have a part in the decision making process.
- c. A person becomes a slave, existing to meet the NEEDS of the family.

4. FAMILY

- a. Parents control children by a spirit of slavery.
- b. Children are corrected through CONDEMNATION.
- c. They are motivated by perfectionism. "If you will perform MY way, I'll accept you. If you don't measure up to what I expect, then I won't accept you."
- d. Children's worth depends upon their "doing." Parents may not say these things, but they communicate them by their attitudes.
- e. When the children grow up they carry these ATTITUDES into their relationship with God.
- f. How can I please God? "Do Do Do"  
"Perform Perform Perform"  
"Serve Serve Serve"
- g. Slaves, (performers) are: Spiritually-----Bound Up  
Emotionally-----Hung Up  
Relationally-----Tied Up
- h. Generationally, a SLAVE produces a slave!

**C. SLAVERY COMES FROM OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD**

- 1. WHO WE THINK GOD IS BASED ON:
  - a. The world
  - b. Religion
  - c. Our family
  - d. Cults or the occult

2. EXAMPLES:

- a. Unlovable
- b. Untrustworthy
- c. Untouchable
- d. A hard task master
- e.           **DEMANDING**
- f. Punishing
- g. Distant
- h. Uncaring
- i. Just like my           **EARTHLY**           father or mother.

3. God never designed slavery so that a person would always remain a slave. ***Deuteronomy 15:12 "If your brother, a Hebrew man or a Hebrew woman, is sold to you and serves you six years, then in the seventh year you shall let him go free from you."***

V. THE SERVANT/PERFORMANCE BASED CHRISTIAN LIFE

A. THE SERVANT, PERFORMANCE BASED CHRISTIAN LIFE ENCOURAGES YOU TO BASE YOUR LIFE, BUILD YOUR LIFE, ON           **LIES**          .

- 1. Everything depends on what I           **DO**          .
- 2. How well I perform - - - on my efforts.
- 3. I will find love and acceptance **if** I can           **WIN**           them.
- 4. I will find success and status **if** I can earn them.

B. THE SERVANT, PERFORMANCE BASED CHRISTIAN LIFE EFFECTS YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH - - -

          **GOD**          ,           **OTHERS**          ,           **YOURSELF**          ,           **SOCIETY**          .

C. EVERYTHING OF IMPORTANCE IN LIFE IS           **CONDITIONAL**          , WHETHER I CAN DELIVER A PERFECT, OR AT LEAST NEAR PERFECT PERFORMANCE.



D. SLAVERY PRODUCES A DISTORTED VIEW OF LIFE.

VI. A SPIRIT OF SONSHIP - - - - - BE SET FREE !!

A. *Galatians 4:3-7* “We were in bondage under the elements of the world. But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou are no more a servant, but a son; and if a son then an heir of God through Christ.”

NO LONGER WHAT YOU CAN DO, BUT WHO YOU ARE – A SON!

B. *Hebrews 2:14,15* “For as much then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same: that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and delivered them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”

1. The spirit of slavery, the spirit from the world, the flesh and the devil produces fear.

a. Fear of REJECTION

i. Am I worth anything?

ii. A feeling of worthlessness is always there.

b. Fear of people

i. Wondering what people think of me.

ii. Am I dressed right? Acting right?

c. Fear of FAILURE

i. Am I producing enough to be successful?

ii. Am I performing enough?

iii. Am I doing enough?

iv. Will I fail as a parent?

v. Will I fail God??

d. Fear FILLS you with

i. Insecurity

ii. Anxiety

- iii. Dread
  - e. Fear PARALYZES you so you can't perform.
- 2. The Spirit of God gives you:
  - a. Recognition
  - b. Unconditional love
  - c. PURPOSE
- 3. The purpose of sons:
  - a. ***Galatians 1: 15,16 "But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me by grace, to reveal His Son in me. . . ."***
  - b. ***Hebrews 2:10 ". . . In bringing many sons unto glory."***
- 4. The spirit of God sets us free.
  - a. ***Galatians 5:1 "Stand fast therefore in the liberty with which Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."***
  - b. ***Galatians 3:10 "For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written; Cursed is everyone that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them."***
    - i. We can't live up to the LAW.
    - ii. Trying to live up to the law puts you under a curse.
    - iii. It puts you in bondage.
  - c. ***Galatians 3:3 "Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?"***
    - i. "Begun in the Spirit"
    - ii. "Made perfect by the FLESH?"
  - d. ***Galatians 3:26 "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus."***
  - e. ***Galatians 2:19 ". . . I through the law am dead to the***

*law, that I might live unto God."*

**VII. ARE YOU A SLAVE OR A SON?**

- A. Earned acceptance or unmerited favor?
- B. Conditionally given or freely bestowed?
- C. A worthy achiever or a undeserving receiver?

**VIII. IF YOU NEED TO BREAK THE SPIRIT OF SLAVERY IN YOUR LIFE, THEN PRAY RIGHT NOW:**

- A. Father, forgive me for trying to earn Your acceptance.
- B. Forgive me for thinking You conditionally give Your love.
- C. Forgive me for thinking I am worthy of anything.
- D. Lord, I want to receive Your unmerited favor.
- E. Lord, I want to live under Your love not the law.
- F. Father, I want to know You, I want to follow Your restrictions and directions; I want my life to be directed by Your will.
- G. Lord, I pray that You will break the spirit of rejection, pride, guilt and condemnation that comes from within me.
- H. I pray that You would break the spirit of slavery that comes from the expectations of men, from people in churches, from marriage, from my family and from my concept of who You are.

**DIAGNOSTIC TOOLS**  
**(QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF)**

1. Am I walking in a spirit of bondage?
2. What are some of the areas I am a slave to?
3. Is it hard for me to relate to God the Father?
4. Am I living in the will and authority of God? Or do I still rebel?
5. Do I consider His will in major areas of my life? A marriage partner, a career, a job change, etc.
6. Do I consider His will in minor areas of my life – example: where I go on vacation, when do I go, who do I go with? Should I buy a new car, paint the living room, go in debt to buy a \_\_\_\_\_? (fill in the blank!)
7. Do I consider His will in the insignificant areas of my life? When to go to bed, when to get up, what to wear, who to go shopping with, what gifts to buy for my family etc?
8. Do I feel accepted and appreciated?
9. Do I feel used by my family, friends, church or God? When?
10. Do I sometimes feel disposable? When?
11. Do I often feel anxious? When?
12. Can I see where a spirit of slavery started to operate in my life? Explain.

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