

"Doulos" of Jesus Christ

A Slave Bound by Love

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According to the New Testament those who have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord stand in relationship to him as a servant, or slave. Though once a "slave to sin" the believer in Christ has been "bought with a price" - the price of the life of Jesus Christ - and becomes the free-will "slave" of his new lord, Jesus Christ. Biblically, the servant, or slave, is bound to serve while the master, or lord, is responsible for the care of his servant. The Greek word that expresses most specifically this relationship of a servant, or slave, to our Lord Jesus Christ is the Greek word "doulos". E.W. Bullinger explains its meaning:

doulos, a slave, one bound to serve ... one whose will and capacities are wholly at the service of another ... *doulos* is used of the lowest scale of servitude, but when transferred to Christian service it expresses the highest devotion of one who is bound by love.

[*A Critical Lexicon and Concordance to the English and Greek New Testament*, p. 683].

A thorough study of this Greek word "doulos" in the NT will bear much fruit for anyone who desires to be "great in the kingdom of God" (Matt. 20:20-28). For as Jesus himself stated, "whoever wants to be first must be slave (doulos) of all. For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve (douleo), and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mk10:44-45).

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