

Seven Key Traits of Disciple-making Disciples and the Disciples they Make:
Servant (Belongs to Christ) Romans 1:1

Romans 1:1 (ESV) *Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,*

I. Review

A. Romans: A Letter to Disciples Who Make Disciples

1. Key Theme: Get the gospel right and get the gospel out!
 - a. Paul and the Romans are saved through the gospel
 - b. Paul is driven by the gospel to preach the gospel
 - c. Paul expects the Romans
 - (1) To understand and approve the gospel
 - (2) To love and obey the gospel
 - (3) To support efforts to spread the gospel
2. Paul addresses the Christians at Rome as a slave to slaves.
 - a. He calls himself a *doulos* of Jesus Christ quickly includes them, and us, in that designation.
 - b. Questions
 - (1) How do we come to be slaves of Jesus Christ?
 - (2) What does Jesus expect of slaves?
 - (3) **Why would anyone want to be a slave, a *doulos*, of Jesus?**

B. (Reasons)

1. A real attitude of loving submission to Christ is the right response to the utter reliability of God given our utter dependence on God.
 - a. Dependent on God for our start
 - b. Dependent on God for our sustenance
 - c. Dependent on God for our salvation
2. Because God Himself paid the price in the death of His Son, Jesus, to redeem us from slavery to sin, self, and death.
 - a. **We belong to Christ.**
 - b. **Romans 1:6 (ESV) *including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,***

II. What does it mean to “belong to Jesus Christ”?

A. Five Conditions

1. A slave of Jesus Christ belongs to Him because we are bought with a price.
 - a. Scripture
 - (1) **1 Corinthians 6:20 (ESV) *for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.***
 - (2) **1 Corinthians 7:23 (ESV) *You were bought with a price; do not become bondservants of men.***
 - (3) **1 Peter 1:18–19 (ESV) *knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the***

precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

- b. Biblical Pictures
 - (1) Justification - Courtroom where justice is served to us
 - (2) Propitiation - Where justice is gained by God
 - (3) Redemption - the slave market, where slaves of sin, and self, and death are bought with price, the blood of Jesus, and freed from sin to become slaves to righteousness and Christ
 - c. What does it mean to belong to Jesus Christ?
 - (1) It means to acknowledge with saving faith and lifetime commitment that we have been purchased from death and hell by a divine, self-sacrificing act of love.
 - (2) Love from God and love for God motivates our service as slaves.
2. A slave of Jesus Christ belongs to Him in answer to a basic creation need to belong.
- a. **Genesis 2:18 (ESV) *Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."***
 - b. God provides
 - (1) God addresses the human need for belonging by providing for the man Adam a wife, a woman Adam named Eve.
 - (2) For our deeper need, to belong to the God who created and for whose purpose and love we are created, God gave us to Christ.
 - (a) **John 6:39 (ESV) *And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.***
 - (b) God has given us to Christ
 - (c) Everyone who looks to the Son and believes in Him has been given by the Father to the Son in the way of belonging, just as Eve was given to Adam.
3. A slave of Jesus Christ belongs to Him for a bazillion years and beyond.
- a. Our position of belonging to Christ is permanent.
 - b. It is eternal.
 - (1) **John 10:29 (ESV) *My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.***
 - (2) **John 6:37 (ESV) *All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.***
 - c. Divorce rates, co-habitation, hook-ups may leave you with the idea that relationships are temporary, but the relationship with Christ that comes through faith is the eternal, enduring work of God.
4. A slave of Jesus Christ belongs to Him as a direct result of the blood of Christ Himself.

a. **Hebrews 9:14 (ESV)** *how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.*

(1) Jesus gave Himself in an act of faith, obedience, and love to death in your place on your behalf.

(2) He bled and died to cover your sin and guilt.

b. What does it mean to belong to Jesus Christ? It means you are covered by the blood!

5. A slave of Jesus Christ belongs to Him in a state of freedom from sin and enslavement to righteousness.

a. **Romans 6:20-23 (ESV)** *For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. 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. 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. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

(1) To belong to Christ is to be free from the ravages of sin and the threat of eternal judgment

(a) Once we could only sin and had no expectation than death

(b) But now, through Christ, and through faith in Him, you can receive forgiveness and freedom from death and fear.

(2) You can have joy, and life, hope in Christ when you belong to Him.

b. What does it mean to belong to Jesus Christ?

(1) It means a whole new life

(2) It means a whole new state of living.

B. God calls some among the nations to belong to Christ.

1. Is that someone you? Then answer the call.

2. Is that someone you? Then issue the call.

3. **Get the gospel right and get the gospel out.**