

What is my identity?

Last Week: We are a _____, so we pursue a new purpose as his Church and his followers.

Today: We are _____, so we **serve God** as we **serve others**.

- 1 Corinthians 3:5 — *What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only **servants** (διάκονος — deaconos), through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task.*
- 2 Corinthians 4:5 — *For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants (δοῦλος—doulos) for Jesus' sake.*

What are the two words used for servant? What are some descriptive meanings?

- διάκονος (deaconos) — 1 Corinthians 3:5
- δοῦλος (doulos) — 2 Corinthians 4:5

How is my identity displayed to the world?

- I am a _____ of Christ...
...on _____ behalf.
- I am _____ of Christ—a bondservant with a message for you...
...with an eternally valuable _____.
- I am an _____ of Christ...
...who disperses his _____.

What is the impact of my living out this identity?

Digging Deeper

(1-hour group conversation and discovery of today's message)

- *(10 minutes)* Write out and talk through the two key words used today and their definitions out of 1 & 2 Corinthians: **διάκονος** (deaconos) and **δοῦλος** (doulos).
 - How do they affect your understanding of your identity in Christ?
 - Does this rub you wrong, or make you feel uncomfortable? Why or why not?
- *(10 minutes)* Discuss being a “slave to people” vs. being a “slave to Christ.”
 - What are the very important distinctions?
- *(5 minutes)* Tell the group about a time when you “served” someone in a special way and seemed to make an impact on them.
- *(10 minutes)* Tell the group about a time when you were “served” by someone else, and what a difference it has made in your life.
- *(10 minutes)* Talk about some of the clocks on the wall in our church building, highlighting some of the special servants/slaves of God, and how these people are making an eternal impact due to their commitment to being slaves of Christ on others’ behalf.
- *(5 minutes)* Discuss some of the missionary examples that Billy talked about, or others you may know of—how they reflect a servant life, and what impact they make.
- *(10 minutes)* Think about your own spiritual lineage. Can you identify how you became a child of God because of the servant heart of someone else?

ASSIGNMENT FOR YOUR PERSONAL TIME AND REFLECTION:

- Can you identify someone(s) in your life whom you can impact as a “slave of Christ”?
 - How can your life have that impact for that person?
- Are you a slave for Christ?

READ AHEAD TO PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK:

Acts 1:1-10