



“Slaves of God”

A study of
the word
“doulos”

Jude 1:1 “**Jude**, a servant (Greek - “doulos”) of Jesus Christ and brother of James,”

James (James 1:1)

Paul (Romans 1:1)

Peter (2 Peter 1:1)

John (Revelation 1:1)

Timothy (Phil. 1:1)

Epaphras (Col 4:12)

Mary, mother of Jesus (Luke 1:38)

Of the 127 times “doulos” is used in New Testament, **most** are used by Jesus in the Gospels.

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What “doulos” means:

- Vine's Expository Dictionary: “from deo, "to bind," "a slave," originally the lowest term in the scale of servitude, came also to mean "one who gives himself up to the will of another,"
- The NAS Greek Lexicon: “a slave, metaph., one who gives himself up to another's will. Those whose service is used by Christ in extending and advancing his cause among men, devoted to another to the disregard of one's own interests”

A “doulos” is someone who was fully “given over” to another.

- Why is “doulos” often translated “servant” in our Bibles?

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What being a “slave of God” means (Romans 6:15-23):

- Vs. 16 → We are either slaves of sin or slaves of God.
- Vs. 16-19 → We choose which master we will serve. (Romans 6:3-4; 10:9)
- Vs. 21-22 → Freedom and life only come with being slaves of God.

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What being a “slave of God” does not mean:

- Ephesians 6:5-9 → God does not condone racism or unfair treatment.
- Romans 8:14-17 → We are not just “slaves” in the eyes of God. (1 John 3:1)
- Philippians 2:5-8 → God doesn’t expect more of us than He did of Jesus.

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Living as a “slave of God”:

- Matthew 25:14-30 → I am only the manager of everything that is “mine” (money/possessions, time, children)... and God expects fruit! (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)
- Luke 17:7-10 → Service from gratitude (not just duty).
- Mark 10:42-45 → Like Jesus, I must be a “slave” of all.

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**Are you a “slave
of God”?**