

Is our pride the cause of such knee-jerk reactions? This is similar to the response of the Pharisees when Jesus promised to make them free. The Pharisees said:

“They answered him, We be Abraham’s seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?” (John 8:33)

Is it the thought of what slavery means to the modern mindset?

This almost vitriolic response to the notion of slavery to Christ must be overcome, regardless of the source.

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### The Master

*“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other;” (Matthew 6:24)*

In reality, we are **ALL** slaves! Everyone is serving one of two masters. We are either knowingly and voluntarily slaves to Jesus, or we are ignorantly slaves to Satan.

Therefore, the outrage should be directed to the master we served before coming to Jesus!

### Slavery is NOT a choice! You ARE A SLAVE!

The choice is who will be your master? Your friend? Or your enemy?

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Choose Slavery To Your Friend

*“The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to **kill**, and to destroy: I am come that they might have **life**, and that they might have it more abundantly.” (John 10:10)*

The choice is simple. We can choose to serve the thief (Satan) and earn wages for our service to him, which is **DEATH**.

Or we can choose to serve Jesus (Who calls us His friends), and He will give us abundant **LIFE**.

So, the choice is **LIFE** or **DEATH**.

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### Conclusion:

Ultimately, we should focus on our part, which is serving the King. We should not focus on Jesus’ part, which is loving us as His friends. As noted previously:

- \* We are all slaves - The question is, which master will we serve?
- \* The difference between a slave and a friend is not in what we do but in the intimacy with the master

*“And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” (Joshua 24:15)*

*Transformed Living Messages by Robert Dallmann*  
ChristLife  
PO Box 1033, Niagara Falls, NY 14304  
Ph: (716) 622-7320  
E-mail: [Christlife@Christ-like.net](mailto:Christlife@Christ-like.net)  
Visit us at [www.Christ-like.net](http://www.Christ-like.net)



By: Robert Dallmann

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“A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.” (Proverbs 18:24)

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### Jesus Is My Best Friend

The Proverb quoted above can speak to our friendship with Jesus. Jesus should be our best friend, and He is closer than a brother. Before delving further into this study, it is vital to identify Who we are giving ourselves to as best friends.

Today, the terms “bestie” and “bff” are commonplace. These identify a person’s best friend (“bff = best friend forever.”) If Jesus is not our best friend, we are setting ourselves up for trouble.

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A Matter Of Perspective

The issue we want to examine is a matter of focus and perspective. Is it true that we are to be slaves

I AM A SLAVE TO MY BEST FRIEND

of Jesus? Is it true that we are His friends? YES!

Scripturally, **both are correct!** However, modern Christianity loves to focus on being Jesus' friend. Some strut around (almost arrogantly), making claims of being royalty, "a King's kid."

These statements are all true. Indeed, we are friends of King Jesus, and we are children adopted into God's royal family. But is that all we are? Do these facts invalidate other things that the Bible says about us? Are these the things we are called to focus on?

What is the correct perspective regarding our relationship with Christ?

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## Jesus' Perspective - A Friend

*"No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I **have called you friends**, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you."* (John 15:15)

From the perspective of our Lord, Jesus Christ, He no longer considers us slaves! **He considers us friends! Hallelujah!**

What an incredible privilege and gift it is to be friends with Jesus!

But, notice **why** we are friends and not slaves. Jesus tells us that it is because friends **KNOW** what their Master is doing, and slaves do not know. The slave does what he is told without knowing the reason. The friend does what he is told, and his Master has explained it to him.

BOTH the slave and the friend are **obedient** to the Master! The difference is in **WHY** they obey... NOT in **WHAT** is expected!

Amazingly, Jesus says that His followers are His friends!

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The Apostle's Perspective - A Slave

*"Simon Peter, a **slave** and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ:"* (2 Peter 1:1)

*"Paul, a **slave** of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,"* (Romans 1:1)

*"The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his **slaves** things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his slave John:"* (Revelation 1:1)

*"James, a **slave** of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting."* (James 1:1)

As we can see from the above passages, the Apostles considered themselves to be **SLAVES** (servants) of Jesus. So, although Jesus calls us friends, we should also call ourselves slaves!

Do you see that the description changes when the perspective changes?

Sadly, many believers relish the notion of being Jesus' friend. Often, lip service is paid to the desire to be His servant and serve others. Rarely do we see expressions of exuberance over the idea of being God's **SLAVE!**

The apostles took no umbrage at being a **SLAVE** of Christ... neither should we!

What perspective will we focus on?

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## Both

The reality is that all Scripture is true! It is assuredly accurate that Jesus calls us His friends. It is also true that the believers considered themselves to be His servants (slaves.)

We should be **enthusiastically joyful** over the fact that Jesus considers us His friends! This should be a more than satisfactory status in the life of followers of Christ.

Yet some believers are so offended at the notion of being a "**SLAVE**" to Christ that they try and mince words over Bible translations and divert the emphasis to the English word "servant" (which is used in many English translations.) Even though the English words "servant" and "slave" have very different connotations, the fact is that they are both translated from the same Greek word.

Here is the Strong's Exhaustive Concordance definition of that Greek word:

δοῦλος doûlos... a **slave** (literal or figurative, involuntary or voluntary; frequently, therefore in a qualified sense of subjection or subserviency)

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Why The Outrage

The question is, "Why is there such outrage over the word 'SLAVE'?"