

Are you your own person? Hold on a minute. Maybe that question is not clear; let me ask it this way... “Do you own yourself?” As you read this article, it is my hope that you as the reader will examine yourself and ask yourself that very same question.

There are many, many statements in the scriptures that sum up our duty toward God. Take Luke 10:26-28 for instance, “He said to him, “What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?”²⁷ So he answered and said, “ ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,’ and ‘your neighbor as yourself.’”²⁸ And He said to him, “You have answered rightly; do this and you will live.” Here are some suggestions to help you serve God and in the process realize you are not your own.

First, we need to understand the great fact that there was a great price paid so we might be free from the “bonds of the strongman” and suffer the second death in the eternal life to come. It is through Christ that we are set free from the bondage of sin. He suffered that we might live. He suffered in the spirit (Mark 8:12; John 11:33). Our Savior suffered in the soul (John 12:27). He suffered in His body Isaiah 50:6, “I gave My back to those who struck Me, And My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting.” Think of the beautiful word “redemption” as you think of the great price paid for our freedom from sin. What we need to realize is that God has provided a way for each of us to get to where He is, and that way came at a great price.

Second there comes the great consequence of the purchase Christ has made for us. We claim ownership to many things in this life. We claim our house, our spouse, our car. We claim our rights, our nights, and our weekends. We claim so many things...not realizing...NONE REALLY BELONG TO US! Reader, you and I, we are just stewards of that which we’ve been blessed with...nothing more. God owns everything. Our body...NOT OURS (Genesis 2:7). Our soul...NOT OURS (Ezekiel 18:4). Our lives and our possessions...NOT OURS (Psalm 50:10). Take moment to let that soak in. While you’re doing that think back to your former self and the “sin that so easily beset you.” We remember how we lived our former lives with no hope and maybe not even the realization of the consequence of the purchase of our sins and we realize the purchase of my sins and “the life I now live by the faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me.” And we come to know and more clearly understand that we truly are not our own.

II Corinthians 7:1, “Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.” This verse instructs us to cleanse ourselves, our body and our spirit, and to perfect (this word is translated “matured”) our holiness in fear and reverence toward God. That means, reader, we make every preparation to serve God with those things in which He has blessed our lives. When we wear the name “CHRISTIAN” it should be worn with honor. We live our lives as stewards, as servants. We serve God with a glad heart, fully realizing His power, His majesty, His sacrifice. Maybe this anagram will help you better understand the word SERVE.

S-Sacrificially
E- Energetically
R- Routinely
V-Voluntarily
E- Enjoyably

Do you remember the question at the beginning of this article? Okay, take some time to find it. (Hint—It’s the very first paragraph) The question was and still is: “ARE YOU YOUR OWN?” The answer the in the scriptures says that we, like it or not are God created beings, It further states that we make choice of who we belong to...God or satan. May we all open our hearts to God and realize that it is our duty as Christians to understand that great price of the sacrifice and our responsibilities to serve God with the talents He has so richly blessed us with.