

Being a Slave to Jesus
(Subtitle-I Can't Go for That)
Text-Romans 1: 1-17

QUESTION	MY ANSWER
What causes you embarrassment? What causes you shame?	Wardrobe malfunctions, malapropisms, answering incorrectly, tripping, spilling something, flatulence, drooling, burping, getting a speeding ticket, public speaking, praying aloud, dancing Being assaulted, conviction of a crime, trauma, feeling "exposed", feeling unappreciated, feeling inadequate, dishonorable discharge, abortion, shyness, introversion, feeling vulnerable
What is the difference between embarrassment and shame?	Embarrassment-feeling self-conscious or awkward- Embarrassment is fleeting and temporary; Shame-painful feeling of humiliation or distress caused by wrong, foolish or other behavior Shame lingers and makes us feel unworthy and alone
What is the remedy for embarrassment? What is the remedy for shame?	Not taking oneself seriously, laughter, "short" memory, true friendship, minimal recording devices, ability to "move forward" Recognition, addressing it directly, understand the source, consider the evidence/the truths, explore alternative(s)/alternative behavior, discover others with similar experiences,
What people (can) cause you embarrassment or shame?	Family, friends, significant others, supervisors, teachers, authority figures, clergy, children-especially adolescents,
What is your definition of a volunteer? What is your definition of a servant?	One who willingly undertakes a service or enterprise without financial, legal interest, concern or obligation-NOT an employee! One who performs duties, responsibilities within the home, business or for the person as an employer or master-NOT an employee!
What does being a servant include?	Honoring (the master); obeying (the master); faithful (to the master); even, good temper (toward the master); truthful (to the master); good stewardship (for the master); excellence (for the master); gratitude (for and toward the master)
What is the difference between a good/bad servant?	Doesn't listen well or at all, doesn't complete tasks, doesn't complete tasks well, lacks motivation, lacks initiative, poor team player, easily offended, self-concerned, misuses resources
How long does it take to become a good servant?	It takes until the master makes and pronounces you "ready for service"-this could be a very short time for some; longer for others depending upon their individual diligence and attentiveness
How do YOU know when you're ready to (for the) work	When the work doesn't feel like an inconvenience, when you understand the expectations, when team members declare you competent, when you know the responsibilities, when you can teach (others) the duties
What does "obligated" mean and how does it apply to you?	Legally, morally binding; legally, morally compelled; legally, morally committed
Where is your work arena and how far does it extend?	This is a similar question to Luke 10:29-"And who is my neighbor?" Your home, your neighborhood, your workplace, your hangouts, your vacation spots, etc.
What is the difference between a "Catholic" saint and a saint?	Catholicism-1. dead for decades or centuries; reputation for Christian holiness on earth and in afterlife, they become - Servant of God - 2. Investigations into person's life and possible martyrdom, they become Venerable and can be prayed to-3. If one miracle is attributable then they become Blessed -4. If 2 miracles attributed, they can become a Saint . By contrast, Paul refers to "saints" as living people with relationships with Jesus.
What does being a servant of Jesus mean?	See the variety of discussions/descriptions above.
How do you feel about being a servant of Jesus?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I never really think about it • I don't consider myself a servant or slave • Well, that's what the Bible says I'm supposed to be • Just great. I'm sold out to Him! • I will do whatever He wants, whenever He wants, wherever He wants
How willing are you to operate outside of your "familiarity zone?"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I'm always willing to do new and different things with people I have never met before • I regularly explore opportunities in unknown areas developing new skills • I'm willing to learn if someone will show me, go with me and hold my hand • I'm not really "feeling" that calling on my life • That's someone' else's job • "No way, Jose!"
What (legal and viable) activities/things are you unwilling to do in public?	No public speaking, no PDA, no protesting, no parades, no yoga, no dancing, no singing, no modeling, no "flash mob" events,

<p>How do you define "humility?" How does it apply to you personally?</p>	<p>Merriam Webster states-freedom from pride or arrogance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I acknowledge I don't have it all together • I know the difference between self-confidence and pride • I take responsibility for my actions; I don't attempt to blame others • I am grateful for what I have regardless of what others have • I endeavor to have others "stand out" when in a group environment • I understand the negative side of success, accumulation and wealth
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DISCOVERY-Let's read the passages- Text-Romans 1: 1-17

Consider these passages and their applications:

Romans 1: 1-Paul, a **servant of Christ Jesus**...

Paul clearly identifies himself and his purpose to his audience.

Paul not only states his apostleship but labels himself, first, a servant (doulos) meaning bondservant. He describes himself as sanctified for a specific reason.

Romans 1: 2--the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets...

Paul states the gospel is Yahweh's fulfilled promise

Paul emphasizes that the Good News of Jesus has historical significance from (long ago-Abraham-possibly earlier) and should not be unknown to those who know the Hebrew prophets.

Romans 1: 3-regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David...

Paul presents Jesus' human lineage and prophetic fulfillment.

In addition to Paul confirming that Jesus was fully human, Paul highlights the title, "Son of David"-(Luke 18:38-39)

Romans 1: 4-and who, through the Spirit of holiness...

Paul presents Jesus' divine lineage and proof of his divinity.

Paul briefly declares the testimonial work of the Holy Spirit; he also confirms that the resurrection is a key, powerful event illuminating Jesus as Yahweh God.

Romans 1: 5-Through him and for his sake **we** received grace and apostleship to call people...

Paul states that Believers, because of and for Jesus, are recipients of divine favor and ambassadorship in order to make (all people groups) disciples based on faith in who Jesus is and the WORK he completed.

Paul succinctly writes that ALL Believers are supposed to be about the work of introducing Jesus to persons who do not know Him and His completed work. These "unknowing persons" need to have faith in Jesus and not reliance on their own individual works. (Judaism, Islam, Jehovah Witnesses, Mormons, Shinto, Buddhism, Confucianism, Catholicism, Santeria, Methodists, Church of Christ and others.)

Romans 1: 6-And **you** also are among those who **are called to belong to Jesus Christ**...

Paul is alerting the audience that they have the same assignments because they are also sanctified.

Paul is introducing that what he does and is called to do is not his responsibility alone. "Set apart people" should be practicing the same work content and ethic.

Romans 1: 7-To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be **saints**...

Paul is greeting and defining the Jesus Believer population in Rome as "saints."

Paul also reminds the Believer that there is peace with Yahweh through Jesus in addition to the undeserved gift of Jesus' perfect life, death, resurrection and forgiveness.

Romans 1: 8-First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you...

Paul cites his gratitude to the Roman Believers for their "huge and expansive faith."

Paul demonstrates the importance of encouraging congregations when their faith is active, effective and far-reaching.

Romans 1: 9-God, whom I **serve with my whole heart** in preaching the gospel of His son...

Paul describes the intensity and commitment to his apostleship and invites Yahweh's scrutiny.

Paul effectively swears by Yahweh God that his regular agenda includes continuous preaching.

Romans 1: 10-in my prayers at all times...

Paul describes the content and regular commitment to praying for people and about his vision, goals, etc..

Luke 18:1-Jesus begins a lecture about the importance of fervent and impactful conversing with Yahweh God

Romans 1: 11-I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift...

Paul shares his vision/dream of visiting the Roman Believer group to strengthen them.

Paul is not referencing some "faith healer" hoodoo. He is likely referencing the gifts of preaching, teaching, wisdom, discernment, exhortation which he possesses.

Romans 1: 12-That is, that you and I may be **mutually encouraged** by each other's faith...

Paul believes this visit will be beneficial for both him and the Roman community.

Ideally, Believers should relish, anticipate and actively exchange/participate during gathering occasions.

Romans 1: 13-I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that I planned many times to come to you...

Paul boldly announces his vision/goal that has been yet unfulfilled because he has been prevented from realizing it.

Even Paul, the juggernaut apostle, falls short of his goals, plans and dreams. This is in direct opposition to preachers who say "ask for it and God will give it to you. Paul has, at least, two glaring examples of unfulfilled prayers. (This and his "thorn in the flesh.")

Romans 1: 14-I am **obligated** to both Greeks and non Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish...

Paul states that his duty/purpose is to preach to/reach ALL people groups.

*Greeks and non-Greeks includes everyone. Wise and the foolish includes all levels of intellect and understanding. **EVERYBODY***

Romans 1: 15-That is why I am so **eager** to preach the gospel...

Paul knows that Rome is a crossroads for people from all over the known world.

Paul is planning to visit first the Roman synagogues, then visit as many public speaking forums as possible to discuss Jesus.

Romans 1: 16-I am **not ashamed** of the gospel...

Paul is so confident and convinced that what he knows and what he is compelled to do MUST be delivered to as many as possible.

Regardless of the embarrassment, unease, discomfort, awkwardness, mortification factors, Paul delivers the intentional job responsibilities for himself and each person who professes to be a follower of the Way-both then and now.

Romans 1: 17-For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last...

A testimonial to the foreknowledge of Yahweh or another finishing author. This is not something that Moses would know on his own.

This verse and others in this letter to the Romans were so poignant that Martin Luther was influenced to challenge the Catholic Church; that John Wesley was moved to be an active mover in what is now referred to as the 1st Great Awakening.

Some considerations

- What do you think you're supposed to be doing besides calling yourself Christian?
- It is sensible to re-think being a bondservant to Jesus versus being a church volunteer concerning eternal equity.
- Revisiting your feeling personal embarrassment and shame is important enough that Jesus discusses them-Mark 8:38, Luke 9:26.
- Only what we do for Jesus remains and lasts after everything is over.
- If you believe this, how should your life change to reflect this truth?

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