

## Lesson 13

### GOD'S CALLED-OUT ASSEMBLY THE CHURCH

## Social Status and Education Make No Difference in Christ's Church

### POSITION AND SOCIAL STATUS MAKES NO DIFFERENCE.

In Acts 26:22 Paul tells us that with God's help he witnessed both to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ . Can you name three people who you could call **GREAT**?-- (an athlete? a president? a wealthy person? a doctor? etc.) Can you think of someone who you would consider **SMALL**?-- (a poor man? someone without a job? someone who very few people care about?) When we speak of a person who is small, we are not talking about a person who is not very tall. We are not talking about someone who is short in stature. A small person, as the word is used in Acts 26:22, refers to a person who is not famous, not well-known, and who does not have a prominent position in society. A political leader (a king, an emperor) would be considered a great person; a slave would be considered a small person. Paul wanted to speak the Word of God to both **SMALL** and **GREAT**.

Who were some of the **GREAT** and famous men who Paul witnessed to (see Acts 9:15; 24:24; 25:12-13; 26:19; 27:1; etc.)? Paul not only witnessed to *great men* but he witnessed to A \_\_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 22:15)! In what way should a believer be **GREAT** (Luke 1:15)?

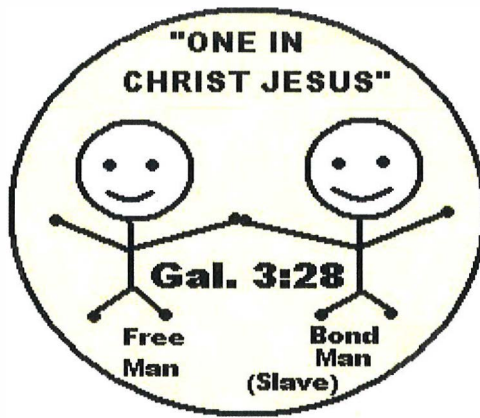
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In New Testament times (in the days of the Roman Empire), the *lowest position* of all was that of a *slave*. But even *slaves* are invited to be members in God's called-out assembly! Even *slaves* can enjoy all the *rights* and *privileges* of being members in the body of Christ. Here are three passages that teach us that IN CHRIST there is no difference between a person who is a SLAVE and a person who is FREE:

**1. Galatians 3:28:** "There is neither Jew nor Greek (Gentile--*nationality makes no difference*), there is neither \_\_\_\_\_ (a slave) nor \_\_\_\_\_ (a free man, one who is not a slave--*position makes no difference*), there is neither male nor female (*sex makes no difference*); for ye are all \_\_\_\_\_

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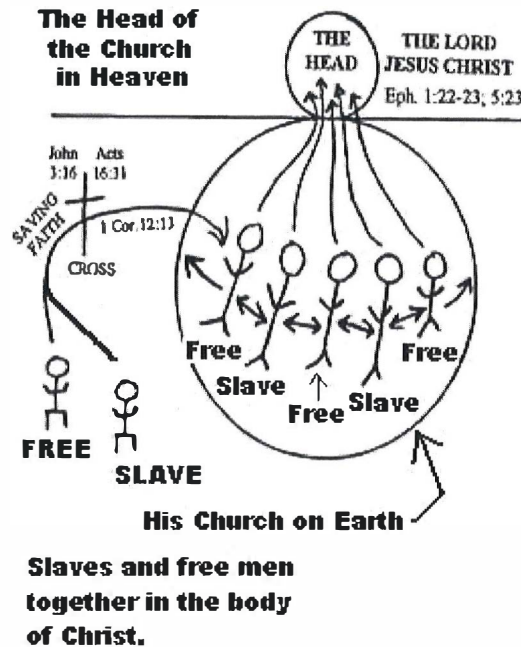
THERE IS  
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**2. 1 Corinthians 12:13:** "For by one Spirit were we \_\_\_\_\_ baptized into \_\_\_\_\_, whether we be Jews or Gentiles (*nationality makes no difference*), whether we be \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ (*position makes no difference*); and have been \_\_\_\_\_ made to drink into one Spirit." What **body** is this verse talking about (see 1 Cor. 12:27; Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18,24)?

This verse (1 Cor. 12:13--being baptized or placed into the body of Christ) is illustrated below:



**3. Colossians 3:11:** "Where there is neither *Greek* (Gentile) nor Jew (*nationality makes no difference*), circumcision nor uncircumcision (*religion makes no difference*--Jews were circumcised according to the law of Moses; Gentiles were not), **barbarian** (foreigner), Scythian (savage and primitive people), \_\_\_\_\_ nor \_\_\_\_\_ (*position makes no difference*), but \_\_\_\_\_ is ALL and IN ALL."

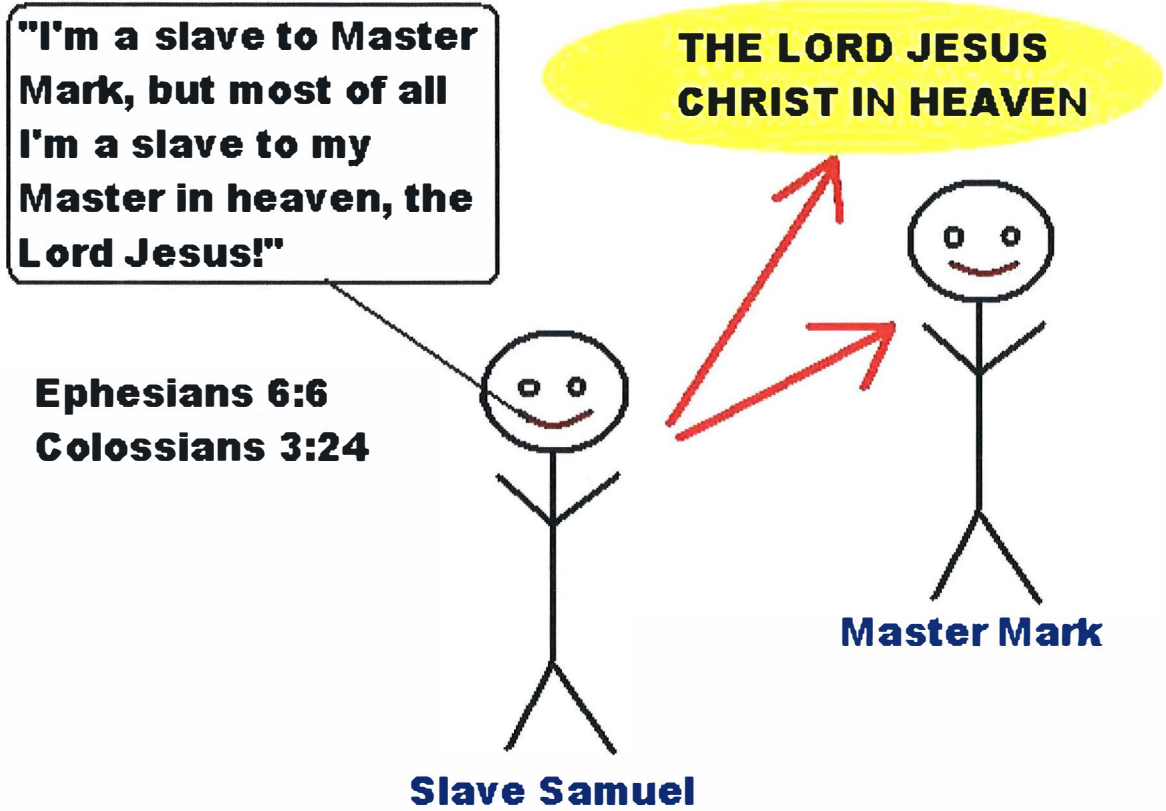
In the body of Christ (the Church) there is perfect **equality** and **oneness**. *There is no difference!*

In Ephesians 6:5-8 and Colossians 3:22-25 Paul writes to Christian **slaves** (the word "servants" in these passages means "slaves"). Paul wanted these saved slaves to realize that they were slaves of \_\_\_\_\_ (see Eph. 6:6 and Col. 3:24).

In Ephesians 6:9 and Colossians 4:1 Paul writes to Christian **masters** (these were **free** men who had

slaves under them). Paul wanted these **saved masters** to realize that they also had a \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ that they were under (Eph. 6:9; Col. 4:1).

Below we have *MASTER MARK* and *SLAVE SAMUEL*:

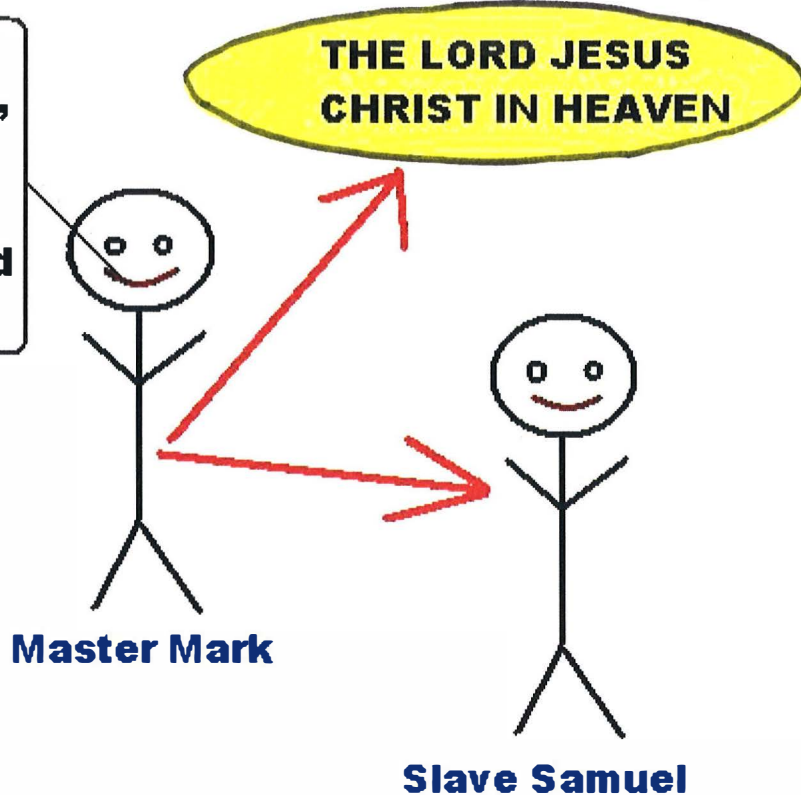


Slave Samuel is a **believing slave** and therefore he is able to say: "I am a slave of Master Mark, but I am also a slave of the Lord Jesus Christ, for I S \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord Christ (Col. 3:24)."



Within this circle no social problem is incapable of solution.

**"I'm the master of Slave Samuel, but I also have a Master in heaven, the Lord Jesus Christ!"**



**Ephesians 6:9**  
**Colossians 4:1**

Master Mark is a **believing master** and therefore he is able to say: "Slave Samuel is **under** me and he must give an account to me, but I am under my MASTER in heaven and I must give an account to Him."

In Christ, it does not make any difference whether a man is a slave or whether he is free. We are all equal as believers in Him. **All** believers must someday stand before the judgment seat of Christ (Romans 14:10; 2 Corinthians 5:10) to receive a reward or to suffer loss of reward (1 Corinthians 3:14-15). This is the reason why Ephesians 6:8 says, "Knowing that whatever good thing \_\_\_\_\_ doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be \_\_\_\_\_ (a slave) or \_\_\_\_\_."

The word "LORD" means "MASTER" and this means that whenever we read the words, "THE **LORD** JESUS CHRIST," we should remind ourselves that **HE is our MASTER** and because He is our **MASTER** we should be (see Titus 2:9) O\_\_\_\_\_ to **HIM** and we should P\_\_\_\_\_ Him well in \_\_\_\_\_ things.

Therefore, every person who belongs to the **LORD** Jesus Christ is His slave. He is our MASTER! Every believer is a **slave of Jesus Christ!!**

[In the following verses, the word "servant" means "slave."]

1. Romans 1:1--Paul was a slave of \_\_\_\_\_
2. Colossians 4:12--Epaphras was a slave of \_\_\_\_\_
3. James 1:1--James was a slave of \_\_\_\_\_
4. 2 Peter 1:1--Peter was a slave of \_\_\_\_\_
5. Jude 1--Jude was a slave of \_\_\_\_\_
6. I am a slave of the Lord Jesus Christ because I belong to Him! (If this is true of you, sign your name: \_\_\_\_\_)

Is it possible to be free and to also be a slave at the same time (read Romans 6:18 and compare 1 Peter 2:16)? \_\_\_\_\_ Is it possible for an unsaved man to be free and to also be a slave at the same time (read Romans 6:20)? \_\_\_\_\_

**Please MATCH:**

<p>1. _____ free from sin</p> <p>2. _____ free from righteousness</p> <p>3. _____ slave of sin</p> <p>4. _____ slave of righteousness</p> <p>5. _____ Romans 6:18</p> <p>6. _____ Romans 6:20</p>	<p><b>A. SAVED PERSON</b></p> <p><b>B. UNSAVED PERSON</b></p>
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Read 1 Corinthians 7:22 carefully. According to this verse, the **slave who is saved** must realize that he is free. See John 8:36: "If the Son, therefore, shall make you \_\_\_\_\_, ye shall be \_\_\_\_\_ indeed." The **free man who is saved** must realize that he is a slave. He is free because he belongs to Christ (1 Corinthians 7:22).

In what way is every believer free? In what way is every believer a slave? If a master realizes that he is a slave to Christ, how will that help him to be a better master to the slaves that are under him? If a slave realizes that he is a slave of Christ, how will this help him to be a better slave to his master?

**Read 1 Timothy 6:2 and answer TRUE or FALSE:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ The believing SLAVE and the believing MASTER are **brothers** in Christ.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ The believing SLAVE should no longer serve his master because the Bible says "be not the **servants** (slaves) of men" (1 Corinthians 7:23).
3. \_\_\_\_\_ The believing SLAVE should be even a better slave than he was before he was saved (see Titus 2:9).
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Paul was telling Timothy (here in 1 Tim. 6:2) that the institution of slavery should be abolished and that all the masters should let their slaves go free.

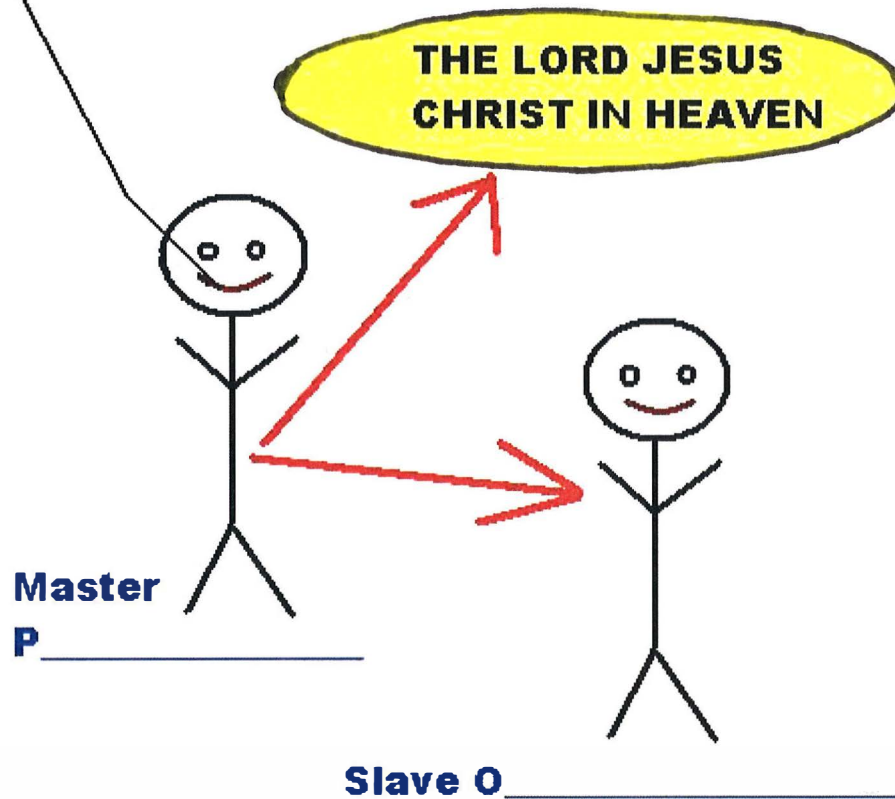
In Paul's brief letter to **Philemon** we learn about a runaway slave named \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 10). This slave **ran** right into the Apostle Paul in Rome. They met in prison. This slave came to know the Lord in a wonderful way. He became a **saved slave!** His master's name was \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 1), the same man that Paul wrote this letter to. Was Philemon a **saved master** (verses 1,5-7)? \_\_\_\_\_ Not only did Paul send this letter to Philemon, but he also sent Onesimus back to his master.



Read verse 16. Even though Onesimus was still a slave, he was now much **more** than a slave. What was he? \_\_\_\_\_

When Philemon finally read this letter that Paul sent and when he saw his runaway slave who was now a **saved slave**, what do you think he might have said to Onesimus? He may have said something like this:

**ONESIMUS, you are my slave, but much more than that you are my \_\_\_\_\_ (verse 16). I know that Christ has forgiven all your sins, and I also forgive you for running away from me. In the body of Christ there is neither bond nor free. We are all one in Christ. There is no difference. With God's help I want to be the best MASTER that I can be to you.**



*Note:* Christ did not come to abolish slavery; He came to do His saving work in the hearts of all who would believe in Him. Slavery was a terrible institution primarily because of the sinfulness of man. It was terrible for sinful men to capture human beings (from Africa, for example) and make them slaves. It was terrible for sinful men to treat other humans as less than human. It was terrible for sinful slave owners to abuse and mistreat their slaves. At the same time we recognize that some slave owners treated their slaves very well and some slaves loved their owners. Some slaves loved their masters so much that they did not even want their freedom (see Exodus 21:5 for one example of this). The Lord Jesus did not come to abolish slavery. Instead He told believing slaves and believing masters how they should live for His glory (Ephesians 6:5-9). Later as Christianity spread throughout the Roman empire, slavery was eventually abolished.

## EDUCATION MAKES NO DIFFERENCE.

Christ invites ALL to become members of His Church regardless of how much EDUCATION or SCHOOLING they have had. If the gospel message went only to intelligent, well educated people who have been trained in the best schools, then thousands of people would never have the opportunity to be saved. Many people have never gone to COLLEGE, but they have COME TO CHRIST. Countless numbers of people have gone to SCHOOLS and COLLEGES and UNIVERSITIES, but they have never COME TO CHRIST. They never got saved. Paul was **ready** (ready, willing and eager) to preach the gospel "both to the **GREEKS** (people well educated in philosophy and art and science) and **BARBARIANS** (foreign people who were often uneducated); BOTH to the \_\_\_\_\_ (those who have above average intelligence and education) and to the \_\_\_\_\_ (unschooled people who are considered "foolish" by those who are educated)" (**Romans 1:14**). How many years of schooling have you had? \_\_\_\_\_ Do you consider yourself well-educated? Do you consider yourself wise or unwise?

The Apostle Peter and the Apostle John were members of the church, but they had never been to a school. What was their previous occupation (Matthew 4:18-22)? \_\_\_\_\_ Did they need to attend school to learn how to do this? \_\_\_\_\_ [The only school they ever came near was a school of fish!] They probably learned their fishing skills from their fathers or from other fishermen. The unsaved Jews considered Peter and John to be uneducated:

"Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were \_\_\_\_\_ (UNEDUCATED; they never had gone to the Jewish schools) and \_\_\_\_\_ (they had never been trained by expert teachers and thus they were not educated)" (ACTS 4:13)

But Peter and John really had the best education and the best training and the best schooling possible because "THEY HAD \_\_\_\_\_" (Acts 4:13) who was the greatest and wisest Teacher of all! What books in the Bible did the UNEDUCATED PETER give us?

- 1.
- 2.

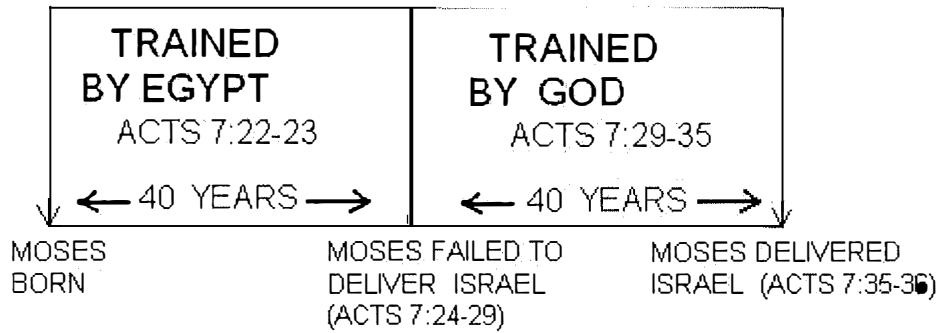
What books in the Bible did the UNEDUCATED JOHN give us?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
5. (See Revelation 1:1)

To the world they were UNLEARNED AND IGNORANT FISHERMEN; to Christ they were BELOVED DISCIPLES!!

## THE EDUCATION OF MOSES

Moses was a well-educated man: "And Moses was \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Egyptians" (Acts 7:22). How old was Moses when he graduated from the "University of Egypt" (Acts 7:23)? \_\_\_\_\_ Did this education prepare Moses to deliver the children of Israel (read Acts 7:23-34)? \_\_\_\_\_ How many more years of training did he need (Acts 7:30)? \_\_\_\_\_



Even the Lord Jesus was considered uneducated: "How knoweth this man letters, having never \_\_\_\_\_ (by this they meant that He never went to any school)" (**John 7:15**). Where did the Lord get His training and education from, according to John 7:16? (Circle the correct answer.)

<p><b>a. From the rabbinical school</b></p>	<p><b>c. From God the Father</b></p>
<p><b>b. From the Hebrew University</b></p>	<p><b>d. From the Scribes and Pharisees</b></p>

Luke and the Apostle Paul were also members of the church. Both of these men were very well educated in the eyes of the world. Luke is called "the \_\_\_\_\_ (doctor)" (Colossians 4:14) and he must have been well-trained in medicine (even as doctors today are well-trained). Also a very large portion of the New Testament was written by Dr. Luke (even more material than Paul wrote). Can you name his two books? 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

Paul was trained by one of the greatest and most famous teachers of his day. Here is what Paul himself said, "I am verily a man which am a JEW, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers" (Acts 22:3).

We learn about this teacher in Acts 5:34: "Then stood there up one in the council, a \_\_\_\_\_, named \_\_\_\_\_, **doctor** (TEACHER) of the law." Paul was this man's disciple! Paul sat at the feet of this teacher who was respected and honored by all the Jews.

But for the believer in Christ, there is a "**greater than Gamaliel**" at whose feet we may learn. Read Luke 10:39: "Mary...sat at \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_." There is no greater teacher than the Master!! Are you His student and His disciple?

Education makes **no difference**, but once we become a member of the Church, God expects us to be **well trained** and **well-educated** in HOW TO LIVE. Where can we find instruction on how to live right, act right, talk right and think right (2 Timothy 3:15-17)? \_\_\_\_\_ It is very easy to be **instructed in unrighteousness** by watching certain television shows, reading certain books and magazines, looking at the wrong things on the computer, etc., but the BIBLE gives us **instruction in** \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Timothy 3:16).