

INCLUDED

A JOURNEY THROUGH ROMANS



1. Paul said in Romans 1:1 that he was primarily a servant of Jesus. When you hear the word servant, what comes to mind? The Greek word Paul used for servant is “doulos” which literally means “love slave”. What do you think Paul meant that he was a “love slave” of Jesus? Should we be one also?
2. Paul claimed that his authority came from the fact that he was an apostle. What were the requirements to be an apostle of Jesus? How many apostles have there been since Jesus was here? How could Paul have been an apostle if he never met Jesus while Jesus was on earth? Read Acts 26:12-18.
3. Why is it important for us that Jesus was fully a human being? Why is it important that he was fully God? Is this something we can understand? Does it bother you when there are things about God you cannot understand? Why? Read Isaiah 55:8,9. Why should we be glad there are things we cannot understand about who God is and what he does?
4. Pastor Rick said that not every Christian is a pastor but every Christian is a minister. What did he mean and what is the difference?
5. What are the five ways we should be ministering in the church? Which one(s) do you think you are doing well in? Which one(s) do you need to improve in? What can you do to improve in the areas you struggle with?
6. What are the three affects on the world we live in when we do not serve and minister the way we should as Christians? Give some examples of each you have observed in our society. Read Matthew 5:13-16. What do you think Jesus meant when he said that we are the salt and the light of the world?
7. Some Christians believe we should act like the unsaved people in the world so that we can relate to them and reach them with the gospel. Why is this wrong? Read Titus 2:11,12. What does this verse say that God’s grace teaches us to do?

ANSWERS

1. *The term “doulos” referred to a very special type of slave. When a slave was beloved and seen as part of the family, the owner would give the slave his freedom. At that point the slave could voluntarily decide to remain a slave to the family because of his love for them. That is what we should be as Christians: Jesus set us free from the slavery of sin and now we should voluntarily be his slave, not because we have to but because of our gratitude to God.*
2. *The requirements to be an apostle were: a. Must be chosen by Jesus, b. must have seen him and spent time with him and c. Must exhibit the signs and miracles of an apostle. Even though Paul did not meet Jesus while he was on earth, Jesus appeared to him and called him to be an apostle and then trained him personally.*
3. *The reason it is important for Jesus to have been a human being was so that he could die on the cross for the sins of humanity. Only a human could have died to pay the price. It was important that he was God because only God could have lived a perfect life as a human and therefore been qualified to die on the cross for our sins. Only because he had no sin of his own to die for could Jesus die for our sins. Also, Hebrews 14:15 says that Jesus can understand what we go through because he went through the same things as a human yet never sinned. We should be glad that there are things about God we cannot understand because if we could understand everything about God he would be just another human being.*
4. *Every Christian has been called by God to minister to those around us but only people who have been gifted as shepherds of God’s flock have been called to be a pastor.*
5. *The five ways are: a. Encourage people; b. Pray for people; c. Spend time with other Christians in fellowship; d. Use how God has shaped me to serve in the church; and e. Share the gospel with those who do not know Christ.*
6. *The three affects on the world when Christians do not serve the way they should are: a. Our world embraces immoral passions; b. Our churches embrace indecent behavior; and c. Our culture celebrates irrational practices. When Jesus said that we are the salt, he was referring to the idea of being a preservative in our culture because salt was used to preserve things. Being the light means we are to shed the truth of what God says about everything with those in our society. Christians are to be what keeps our society from becoming rotten.*
7. *This is wrong because it is the difference in the way we live that attracts people to Christ, they see we have something they do not have. If we act just like the people in the world, they see no difference between us and them and will not listen to us when we share the gospel with them because after all, we are no different from them. We do not reach sinners and change how they live by being just like them. God’s grace teaches us to live godly lives, not lives just like everyone else.*