

## How To Identify Ourselves – James 1:1

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### **Introduction**

1. In our introductory study, we concluded that James was the Lord's brother. If this is true it is interesting that James only identifies himself simply "a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ" (1:1)
2. Why would James and many other New Testament writers call themselves "servants"? Should we?

### **I. Being A Servant Is "What A Disciple Of Jesus Is Called To Be"**

- a. Jesus Stressed This Truth Several Times
  - i. Matthew 23:8-12 – Only one is to be called greatest, teacher, etc.
  - ii. John 13:12-17 – During the Last Supper was a vivid illustration of servitude
  - iii. Matthew 20:25-28 – By His own example, as He came to serve (Php 2:5-8)
- b. Specifically We Are Called To Serve...
  - i. God – Jm 1:1; He 9:14
  - ii. Jesus Christ – Jm 1:1; 1 Co 4:1
  - iii. Righteousness – Ro 6:17-18
  - iv. Each Other & The Lost – Ga 5:13; 1 Co 9:19-23

### **II. Being A Servant Is "A Mark Of Spiritual Maturity"**

- a. An Immature Person Is Usually Very Selfish
  - i. Like newborn babies
- b. But not a person who serves others
- c. James's description of himself fits very well with theme of his epistle

### **III. Being A Servant Has Several Implications**

- a. It Implies "Absolute Obedience" – 1 Co 6:19-20; Lk 6:46; Mt 7:21
- b. It Implies "Absolute Humility" – 1 Co 15:9-10; Ep 3:8; 1 Ti 1:15; Lk 17:10
- c. It Implies "Absolute Loyalty" – Ga 1:10

### **IV. Being A Servant Is "A Great Honor"**

- a. A Title For Some Great Men
  - i. Abraham, Issac and Jacob – Deut 9:27; Moses – 1 Ki 8:53; Job – Job 1:8; etc.
- b. How wonderful would it be if God saw us as companions of these great men?