

# **Servanthood**

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## I. Introduction.

- A. Servanthood is talked about a lot and practiced very little.
- B. A difficult topic to get a hold of.
- C. Rejected by many cultures.

## II. Defining servanthood.

- A. Webster: a person ardently devoted to another, to a cause or to a creed.
- B. Acting on a modest sense of our own importance.
- C. Spending and being spent for others.

## III. Servanthood's importance.

- A. Jesus came not only to be served, but to serve. (Mark 10:45)
  - 1. This is the key verse to Mark.
  - 2. Mark portrays Jesus as the servant.
- B. Paul calls himself a servant of Jesus Christ before anything else. (Romans 1:1)
  - 1. Peter does the same. (2 Peter 1:1)
  - 2. Paul wants to be considered as a servant of Christ and a steward of his mysteries. (2 Corinthians 1:1)
- C. Servanthood is the key to two things.
  - 1. Evangelism. (2 Corinthians 4:5)
    - a. Personal illustration: sharing Christ through tutoring and typing.
    - b. Does your walk equal your talk?
    - c. To have a heart for people is being willing to serve.
  - 2. Discipleship.

## IV. How to develop the servant heart.

- A. Have a proper self concept of who I am and who God is.

1. Jesus had that. (John 13)

a. Jesus knew who he was—he had a self concept in terms of his relationship with the Father.

b. Jesus' life was saturated with personal prayer. (Mark 1:35; Mark 6:36)

2. To develop a proper self-concept of ourselves we need to spend time with the Lord.

3. A devotional life is a key essential to developing a servant heart.

B. We need to learn to be observant of other's needs.

1. The man with the *bountiful eye* is the one who will be blessed. (Proverbs 22:9)

a. You need to scratch people where they itch.

2. Three types of needs—spiritual, material, physical.

a. Spiritual needs.

b. Material and physical needs often need to be met before spiritual needs.

c. Personal examples of people who knew how to observe other's needs.

3. To become this, we need to become:

a. Listeners. If we listen to someone enough, we can figure out someone's needs.

b. Observant. If we keep our eyes open, we can often find opportunities to serve.

c. Aware of common needs. We all need people to listen, for instance.

C. Being willing to give yourself whole-heartedly to others. (Philippians 2:6-11)

1. How can one give himself?

a. Time.

b. Possessions.

1) Making a list of things that we could not give away whole-heartedly.

D. Cultivating being a servant.

V. Qualities of a Godly servant.

A. Esteem and honor those that are over us.

1. Personal example of esteeming parents.

2. Let someone else be an authority—we do not always need to express our opinion. We hold people in a higher position by just listening.

B. Have a cooperate spirit.

1. Even if you think your idea is better, be submissive.

C. Do not put things off that are requested of you - Do it now.

D. Be willing and faithful to another's plans.

1. Joshua left nothing done that was commanded to Moses.

2. He was a yes man, always being faithful to another person's plan or approach.

E. Think ahead - Look ahead for needs.

F. Let others serve us.

1. Peter needed to allow Jesus to serve him. (John 13)

2. Sometimes we jump too quickly at opportunities to open the door for others before other people.

3. Sometimes we need a break—too much can be asked of us.

4. We need to set priorities for the serving others.

## VI. Conclusion.

It is easy to be a servant; there are very few. Too many servants are man pleasers. We ought to count it a privilege to serve (A.B. Bruce). Start with asking yourself, is there one need that I can fulfill?

## Application questions.

1. Why is evangelism and discipleship often ineffective without a servant's heart?

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2. How do the qualities of the Godly servant compare with the way you are living? In what qualities do you show some strength? Where do you fall short?

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3. What are the first three principles of servant hood according to the speaker? The fourth principle that he lists is "cultivating being a servant." What steps will you take to accomplish this? What is one need that you can fulfill in the next day?

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