

Servanthood

Skip Gray

I. Definition of service.

- A. To render help or assistance.
- B. Webster focuses upon another's needs desires and wants.
 - 1. The immediate focus is outward contrary to what our culture teaches us.

II. The God of the universe is a Servant God.

- A. Our service is important because God is a servant.
- B. If anyone had a privilege or right to not be a servant, it would be our God.
- C. Yet if anyone is a servant it is He.
 - 1. When God created the woman he created her as a helper (*ezer*).
 - a. This word is used eighteen times.
 - b. Thirteen times it is used of God.
 - 2. Mark 10:43-45.
 - a. The disciples were commanded to be servants.
 - b. Jesus is the example of service.
 - 3. Philippians 2.
 - a. Commands us to have the same mind as was in Christ.
 - b. Jesus took five steps downward as he moved into this role of being a servant.
 - c. Contrasted to Isaiah 14 where Satan says five "I wills."
 - 1) When we are committed to say, "I will," He says you won't.
 - 2) God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble.

III. God's desire for you is to be servants.

- A. We are not to preach ourselves, but all for Jesus' sake. (2 Corinthians 4:5)
 - 1. The Corinthians would have been a grim church to pastor.

2. Paul's service to them had nothing to do with the people of the church though.

B. Jesus' love for the world. (John 13)

1. Love is unending.

2. Love is both a fruit of the Spirit and an act of the will.

3. Jesus washes the feet of His servants.

a. Washing someone's feet even as a slave is voluntary.

b. One of the reasons that we find difficulty in serving others is because we do not want to take off our garments—our robes.

c. We wear a lot of robes—robes of business, of being important, of rank.

d. Jesus then took the towel of a servant. He has less than 20 hours to live. If you knew that you would be dead in 24 hours, what would you be doing? Jesus serves.

4. The essence of love is disrobing and being vulnerable.

5. A servant will be involved with other people's dirty feet because our Lord said we "ought to."

IV. Manifestations of the servant heart.

A. Go about doing good works and bring healing to those who need healing.

B. Hospitality. (Romans 12:13)

1. Means "bed and breakfast" for starters—open up your home.

C. Make other people look good. (Philippians 2:3-4)

1. Make other people successful.

2. We have God on our side if we are committed to making others look good.

3. If you have to make a choice, opt for the other guy.

V. A couple of the deadliest enemies of the servant heart.

A. A lordship attitude.

1. Pride disguised as leadership. (1 Peter)

2. Leadership means being an example, not ruling others.

3. We are helpers of other's joy. (2 Corinthians 1:24)

B. A sectarian attitude. (Luke 9:49-50)

1. This episode is ludicrous and sad.
2. The response of the disciples' spiritual impotence is to tell others to stop doing what they could not.
3. It does not matter whether other's "fly our flag," but whether they are serving others and God.

VI. Questions.

A. Differentiation between headship and leadership.

1. 1 Corinthians 11—they are the same thing.
2. Christ and God are equal, but within the Godhead they have different roles.
3. The same is true for husband and wife.
4. Leadership is to be soft and gentle.

B. Accountability.

1. God holds both individuals accountable.

C. Man having rule over more than just his wife.

1. The basic responsibility that a man has is just over his own wife.
2. 1 Corinthians 11 seems to have broader implications.
3. Every unmarried woman ought to have a Godly head—a father, pastor, or someone else if she cannot have that with her own father.
4. A variety of opinions, but this is important because there is shelter, cover, and counsel in headship.

D. Ramifications of employing another man's wife.

1. If she is there under the approval of her husband and serving you normally, there should be no problem.
2. The husband is always responsible; the wife is just providing a service with his blessing.
3. If there is no blessing from the husband, the employer should perhaps reconsider.

Application questions.

1. What are the implications of the reality that God is the greatest servant of all? Explain.

2. What did the speaker say the manifestations of the servant heart were? How do these items show themselves in your life? In what ways are they lacking?

3. What are the deadliest enemies of the servant heart, according to the speaker? List some ways that you can avoid these traps in your own ministry. Be specific.
