

Servanthood, Bondservant

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Philippians 2:3-11.

B. Jesus called himself a bondservant. His followers called themselves bondservants of him.

C. A bondservant is a unique kind of servant.

II. The circumstances by which one becomes a bondservant.(Exodus 21:2-6; Deuteronomy 15:6-7)

A. It had to be a decision of love.

B. It must be a voluntary decision.

C. It had to be a conscious choice.

III. The cost of the commitment to become a bondservant.

A. It was a life commitment.

B. It cost pain.

C. It required a life-brand.

D. It cost a total commitment to serve one's master.

E. It cost a great deal of faith: one had to trust the master for every need.

F. It cost the freedom to control choices and time. (2 Corinthians 5:15)

G. It cost one's identity. (Luke 9:23)

IV. The characteristics of a bondservant.

A. The service is to the Lord and also to people.

B. The service is other minded. It puts others first. (Philippians 2:4, 5-11, 17)

C. The servant must give him or herself. (2 Corinthians 8:5)

D. The servant looks for nothing in return.

V. The compensation of a bondservant.

A. God assumes responsibility for all needs. (Philippians 4:19)

B. God assumes responsibility for preventing temptation beyond what one can bear. (1 Corinthians 10:13)

C. God assumes responsibility to work for good in all circumstances. (Romans 8:28)

D. God assumes responsibility for the response of those whom his servants minister to. (Isaiah 44:26; 55)

E. God assumes responsibility to give direction and leadership to his servant. (Psalm 32:80; Isaiah 48:17)

F. God guards against enemies. (Isaiah 54:17)

G. God assumes responsibility to refresh his servant. (Jeremiah 31:14-25)

VI. Conclusion. (Mark 10:45; John 13:16-17)

Application questions:

1. What is a bondservant?

2. Is every Christian a bondservant? Explain.

3. How can you better “take up your cross” as part of the cost of being a bondservant? Explain.
