

Servanthood – Lesson One - Introduction

Servanthood

- Employ of a person passionately devoted to another, cause or creed.
- Spending and being spent for others

Over the next several weeks, we will engage in a study on Servanthood. Although the word servant carries a negative connotation in the secular world oftentimes, many in the body of Christ covet the title. The only problem with that is many Christians don't embrace the full meaning and spirit of the word "servant." Jesus said in Matthew 20:26b-28: ". . . but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever desires to be first among you must be your slave – Just as the Son of Man came not to be waited on but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many (the price paid to set them free)." AMP

Jesus Christ is our true example of a servant. He gave up everything to do the will of His Father and serve the people. Servanthood always involves sacrifice and therefore must be propelled by love; otherwise, the sacrifice could breed bitterness and resentment. When love is not the motivation behind the service, but rather some sense of obligation or duty, the person will eventually experience burn-out or as with many other things, disinterest and boredom. There is no joy in the service. This is a very real and prevalent problem in the body of Christ. It is therefore vital that we

examine our motives, gifts/abilities and temperance for serving before we commit. Our service must be out of a sense of calling (within our areas of gifting) and most importantly out of love for God. “And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father by him.” Col. 3:17 KJV “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.” 1 Cor. 10:31 KJV

Servanthood involves:

1. Sacrifice - to surrender or give up, or permit injury or disadvantage to, for the sake of something else.
2. Surrender - to give oneself up, as into the power of another; submit or yield.
3. Submission (submit) - to give over or yield to the power or authority of another

➤ **Mark 10:45** For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

➤ **Matthew 20:20-28** Then came to him the mother of Zebedee's children with her sons, worshipping him, and desiring a certain thing of him. 21And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom. 22But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto him, We are able. 23And he saith unto them, Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with: but to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of my Father. 24And when the ten heard it, they were moved with indignation against the two brethren. 25But Jesus called them

unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. 26But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; 27And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: 28Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

➤ **1 Corinthians 15:58** Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

➤ **Psalms 123:2** Behold, as the eyes of servants look unto the hand of their masters, and as the eyes of a maiden unto the hand of her mistress; so our eyes wait upon the Lord our God, until that he have mercy upon us.

AMP Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, and as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the Lord our God, until He has mercy and loving-kindness for us.

➤ **Philippians 2:3-7** Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. 4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. 5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

➤ **John 13:14-15**: “Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.”

➤ **1 Peter 5:5**: “All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, ‘God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.’