

## Servanthood – Lesson Two

### Servanthood

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

#### Key Points from Lesson 1

- 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 (set in motion) by love.
- Servanthood involves:
  - Sacrifice - to surrender or give up, or permit injury or disadvantage to, for the sake of something else.
  - Surrender - to give oneself up, as into the power of another; submit or yield.
  - Submission (submit) - to give over or yield to the power or authority of another.

#### DEFINITIONS

##### **Slave (Bond servant)**

1. a person who is the property of and wholly subject to another; a bond servant.
2. a person entirely under the domination of some influence or person: *a slave to a drug*.

##### **Servant**

1. a person employed by another, especially to perform domestic duties.
2. a person in the service of another.

##### **Serve**

1. to act as a servant.
2. to render assistance; be of use; help.
3. to answer the purpose

4. *Ecclesiastical* . to act as a server.
5. to be in the service of; work for.
6. to be useful or of service to; help.
7. to render active service to
8. to render obedience or homage to (God, a sovereign, etc)

#### Exodus 21:1-6 Concerning slaves

21 “Now these *are* the judgments which you shall set before them: <sup>2</sup> If you buy a Hebrew servant, he shall serve six years; and in the seventh he shall go out free and pay nothing. <sup>3</sup> If he comes in by himself, he shall go out by himself; if he *comes in* married, then his wife shall go out with him. <sup>4</sup> If his master has given him a wife, and she has borne him sons or daughters, the wife and her children shall be her master’s, and he shall go out by himself. <sup>5</sup> But if the servant plainly says, ‘I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,’ <sup>6</sup> then his master shall bring him to the judges. He shall also bring him to the door, or to the doorpost, and his master shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him forever.

#### Leviticus 25:39-43

<sup>39</sup> ‘And if *one of* your brethren *who dwells* by you becomes poor, and sells himself to you, you shall not compel him to serve as a slave. <sup>40</sup> As a hired servant *and* a sojourner he shall be with you, *and* shall serve you until the Year of Jubilee. <sup>41</sup> And *then* he shall depart from you—he and his children with him—and shall return to his own family. He shall return to the possession of his fathers. <sup>42</sup> For they *are* My servants, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt; they shall not be sold as slaves. <sup>43</sup> You shall not rule over him with rigor, but you shall fear your God.

Hebrew slaves were protected from being slaves for life by the law. If they were purchased, they served for six years and were released the 7<sup>th</sup> year. If they sold themselves into servitude, they were not treated as slaves with no rights, but rather as employees, but bound to that master until the year of Jubilee and then not only freed, but returned to their families and if their land had been taken away by creditors, it was restored. However, slaves that were purchased had the choice to remain slaves if they so desired, thus relinquishing (giving up) their freedom permanently, and ultimately choosing to be a **bondservant** for life. Hopefully this illustrates the difference between a servant, one who still has rights to his own life, and a bond-servant, who gives up all rights to his master.

#### Jesus Christ willingly became a bondservant

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, <sup>7</sup> but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a **bondservant**, and coming in the likeness of men. Phil. 2:5-7

Paul, a **bondservant** of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God Rom. 1:1

James, a **bondservant** of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad: Greetings. James 1:1

Simon Peter, a **bondservant** and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: 2 Pet. 1:1

## **TRAITS OF A NEW TESTAMENT BONDSERVANT OF CHRIST**

By Curt Shacklett

1. Bondservant of Christ is emptied of self, and walks in deep humility before the Lord, faithfully obeying Him to the point of suffering hardship, humiliation, and even death if required. (Phil. 2:5-8; Luke 1:38)

2. A Bondservant of Christ has a deep and genuine concern for the welfare of others. (Phil. 2:20-21; Col. 4:14-13)

3. A Bondservant of Christ seeks to encourage, comfort and strengthen others. (Col. 4:7- 8)

4. A Bondservant of Christ strives to do the will of his Master, and please Him only, and has abandoned seeking after the praise of men. (Gal. 1:10; II Cor. 5:9)

5. A Bondservant of Christ does not promote or exalt self but promotes and exalts Christ as Lord of all, and views self as a bondslave of others to fulfill the call of Christ. (II Cor. 4:5)

6. A Bondservant of Christ is not quarrelsome, but kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, gently correcting those who are in opposition. (II Tim. 2:24-25)

7. A Bondservant of Christ sees his/her life of service as a grateful, dutiful, and loving

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response to God and not something for which he/she expects to be thanked by his/her Master, but rather rewarded for his/her faithfulness. (Luke 17:7-10; Rom. 12:1-2; Eph. 6:5-8)