

Servanthood May 2026

Can you remember as a child being asked to do the dishes or fold the washing, then grumbling I did it last time or why cant someone else do it?

We as adults can often have the same attitude. Why me?

1 Cor' 4; 1 NKJV Paul to the Corinthian church *Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.*

We are called as slaves of Jesus Christ to serve Him Phil. 1 (See footnote) *From Paul^[a] and Timothy, slaves^[b] of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus*

We are here to carry on that work of Paul and Timothy spreading the gospel of good news. So we too are servants/slaves of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God

Service is the occupation of a servant. We are servants of Christ voluntarily to serve Christ Himself and our fellow Christians.

What does this entail and how should we carry out this service?

John 12:26 *If anyone wants to serve me, he must follow^[az] me, and where I am, my servant will be too.^[ba] If anyone serves me, the Father will honour him.*

Romans 6; 16 18 *Do you not know that if you present yourselves^[m] as obedient slaves,^[n] you are slaves of the one you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or obedience resulting in righteousness?^[o] ¹⁷ But thanks be to God that though you were slaves to sin, you obeyed^[p] from the heart that pattern^[q] of teaching you were entrusted to, ¹⁸ and having been freed from sin, you became enslaved to righteousness.*

Footnote

Col.3;22 23 NET *Whatever you are doing,^[v] work at it with enthusiasm,^[z] as to the Lord and not for people,^[aa] ²⁴ because you know that you will receive your^[ab] inheritance^[ac] from the Lord as the reward. Serve^[ad] the Lord Christ.*

Now in the NIV *Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. ²³ Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, ²⁴ since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving*

Whatever service you are called to do or whatever God places in front of you do it. Our payment and praise will come from God *Well done good and faithful servant.* Not from man its bit like giving; don't let the left hand know what the right hand is doing.

Some are called to more serving (like cups of tea) others to more giving, but all are servants of Christ.

Romans 12; 7

Humble Service in the Body of Christ

³ *For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. ⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your^[a] faith; ⁷ **if it is serving, then serve;** if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead,^[b] do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.*

Or as in Ephesians 6; 6-8 The Message.

Servants, respectfully obey your earthly masters but always with an eye to obeying the real master, Christ. Don't just do what you have to do to get by, but work heartily, as Christ's servants doing what God wants you to do. And work with a smile on your face, always keeping in mind that no matter who happens to be giving the orders, you're really serving God. Good work will get you good pay from the Master, regardless of whether you are slave or free.

What does the Bible say about servants. They are not greater than their masters. We as servants cannot and must not exalt ourselves. Serving should not be a chore as it is a gift of God to be able to serve. Humility counts.

You know Jesus said if someone asks you to go the mile go two. Do more than what is asked of you. The Bible also says you can't serve two masters for you will love one and hate the other. So, make sure we serve God not Satan

Being a servant of the most high God requires humility, loyalty and faithfulness.

Galatians 5; 13 -14

You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh^[a]; rather, serve one another humbly in love. ¹⁴ For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbour as yourself."

Luke 17; 7 - 10

"Would any one of you say^[t] to your slave^[u] who comes in from the field after ploughing or shepherding sheep, 'Come at once and sit down for a meal'?^[v] ⁸ Won't^[w] the master^[x] instead say to him, 'Get my dinner ready, and make yourself ready^[y] to serve me while^[z] I eat and drink. Then^[aa] you may eat and drink'? ⁹ He won't thank the slave because he did what he was told,^[ab] will he?^[ac] ¹⁰ So you too, when you have done everything you were commanded to do, should say, 'We are slaves undeserving of special praise;^[ad] we have only done what was our duty.'^[ae]

I want to compare two examples of service from the Bible.

Firstly Luke 10; 38 -42

Now as they went on their way, Jesus^[dx] entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him as a guest.^[dy] ³⁹ She^[dz] had a sister named Mary, who sat^[ea] at the Lord's feet^[eb] and listened to what he said. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted^[ec] with all the preparations she had to make,^[ed] so^[ee] she came up to him and said, "Lord, don't you care^[ef] that my sister has left me to do all the work^[ea] alone? Tell^[eh] her to help me."⁴¹ But the Lord^[ei] answered her,^[ej] "Martha, Martha,^[ek] you are worried and troubled^[el] about many things, ⁴² but one thing^[em] is needed. Mary has chosen the best^[en] part; it will not be taken away from her."

Here is someone who maybe feels obliged to serve to offer hospitality but her attitude is wrong. Why don't You send my sister out to help. Yes Jesus said ary had chosen the better thing but perhaps if Martha's attitude was one of ministering humbly to Jesus not grumbling she would have been praised also.

Secondly;

John 13; 1-17

It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

² The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. ³ Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; ⁴ so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵ After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

⁷ Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

⁸ "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

⁹ "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

¹⁰ Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." ¹¹ For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

¹² When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. ¹³ "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶ Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

A dirty job a necessary job one for the servants. Who is the servant in this case?

This example is one of humility and no favouritism. For Jesus washed the feet (served) the one He knew was going to betray Him.

He demonstrated unconditional unearned love and humility.

What is our attitude to those who have wronged us or brassed us off. Will we still serve them a cup of tea with a smile or will we turn away and ignore them or glower at them.

If Jesus could demonstrate such love and humility so, should we because He calls us to do likewise. Let us serve God and those He places in front of us with a right attitude in humility not asking for praise rather being willing and cheerful. As the Bible says

Galatians 6; 9-10 The Mess

So, let's not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good. At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don't give up or quit. Right now, therefore, every time we get the chance, let us work for the benefit of all, starting with the people closest to us in the community of faith.