

7 SCRIPTURAL PRINCIPLES OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE

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The day you trusted Jesus as Lord and Savior you became a servant of the most high God, even a bond slave. The Apostle Paul introduces himself in the Roman Epistle in these words, “Paul, a bond slave (*doulos*) of Jesus Christ” (Romans 1:1). To be a slave meant three things.

1. Jesus Christ has purchased him by His precious blood.
2. He therefore belongs to Jesus Christ – 1 Cor. 6:19-20.
3. He, therefore, does His bidding.

In fact Jesus tells us that in order to be first, we must become slaves (Matthew 20:27). The last act of Jesus before His crucifixion was to get down on His hands and knees and wash the disciples’ feet. Having done this, Jesus categorically reminds us to do the same for others (John 13:14-15).

In view of this fundamental truth, please consider the following Spiritual Principles of service:

- I. **We should recognize that no matter whom we serve humanly**, it is the Lord God whom we are truly serving. Col. 3:22-24 commands us to work heartily unto the Lord, no matter what that work may be.
- II. **We should recognize that serving is not something we do for God** but something God does through us. When you trusted Jesus for your salvation, the Holy Spirit came into your life in order to equip you for the service of God. 1 Thess. 5:24 tells us that He who calls us to service is faithful. The Apostle Paul confessed that he worked more than any of the Apostles but went on to say that it was not he who worked but the grace of God was with him (1 Cor. 15:10).
- III. **We should never take any credit for anything we do because** “it is God who is at work in you but to will and to work for His good pleasure” (Philippians 2:13). Note Acts 14:27 – the first missionaries rehearsed all “God had done with them.”
- IV. **We should realize that we cannot serve God and ourselves at the same time.** It is not that we may not but that we cannot. Self serving and Godly serving cannot co-exist (Matthew 6:24; Luke 16:13).
- V. **We must serve out of our spiritual gifts, not our human talents.** The abundance of natural ability does not equip one to serve in God’s kingdom nor does lack of abilities keep one from serving. The spirit of

God provides our gifts and then enables us in His service, indeed His commandments are our enablement. Apart from God we can engage in much activity but we can do nothing of eternal value without Him, and to be without Him means to be without the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

VI. **We should be concerned with whether we are serving the Lord or serving ourselves.** How can you know if you are sincerely serving the Lord?

1. You will know it if you are serving the Lord for His glory and not for you and your group.
2. You will know it if your primary concern are the needs of others.
3. You will know it if you are working for the good of God's church or kingdom.
4. You will know it if you are willing to make the necessary adjustments and sacrifices in your personal life to be effective.
5. You will know it if you are operating in a spirit of humility.

VII. **You should test yourself to see if you are engaged in self-service or godly service.**

1. Are you more concerned about people's opinion than what God thinks?
2. Are you constantly seeking compliments and praise for your work?
3. Are you always seeking compensation for your service?