

What Does it Mean to be a Servant of God?

We will use a reference that was mentioned before to introduce the subject of servanthood, **Philippians 2:5-8 NLT: You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though He was God, He did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, He gave up His divine privileges; He took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When He appeared in human form, He humbled Himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. Being a servant of God means to be willing to submit to the will of the Father. Jesus described His earthly mission in precisely these terms, John 4:34 NLT: Then Jesus explained: "My nourishment comes from doing the will of God, who sent Me, and from finishing His work."** And again in **John 5:19 NLT: So Jesus explained, "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by Himself. He does only what He sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father does, the Son also does.**

We are to follow in the pattern that was set for us by Jesus during His earthly ministry. Many people believe that it is not necessary to be a servant and that we can enjoy the benefits of being in God's Kingdom right now. I would agree with them but with one additional insight. The Scriptures say that if we are to rule and reign with Christ that we must partake of His suffering, **2 Timothy 2:12. Part of the suffering that we endure is a result of the battle between our will and God's will. Our flesh wants to enjoy the pleasures of this world but our spirits want to serve the will of God.**

People will often come up with theological justifications for enjoying the pleasures of this world when the example set forth by Jesus and His disciples was dedication to the Kingdom of God and not to the things of this world. John stated this principle quite clearly in **1 John 2:15 NLT: Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. James reinforces this point in James 4:4 NLT: You adulterers! Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God. Here are clear references regarding our attitude towards the things of this world. And to clarify the point, it is not wrong to have things of the world but it is wrong to desire them or to place our affection on them. We may use them for the Kingdom but we are not to be attached to them, 1 Corinthians 7:31. Our attachment to the things of the world may hinder our ability to be in service for Jesus. Our service for Jesus takes many forms as some are listed below:**

Practical Ministry: Matthew 25:35 NLT: For I was hungry, and you fed Me. I was thirsty, and you gave Me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited Me into your home. I was naked, and you gave Me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for Me. I was in prison, and you visited Me.'

Teaching Ministry: Matthew 28:20 NLT: Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. ...

Worshiping God: Romans 12:1 NLT: And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all He has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind He will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship Him.

Praying Ministry: 1 Thessalonians 5:17 NLT: Never stop praying.

Encouragement Ministry: 1 Thessalonians 5:11 NLT: So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.

Caring Ministry: 1 Corinthians 12:25 NLT: This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other.