

Connect Group Studies



'Bringing God and people together'

Study 1 - Jesus: Our Model of Servanthood

AIM - To see how Jesus chose the way of humble servanthood so that we can choose that way too.

What is Servanthood?

Q: What do you think servanthood is?

What Servanthood is not:

People either Christian or non-Christian can do good deeds for others, but that is not necessarily servanthood.

People can also serve out of motives such as - to gain self-worth, to call attention to themselves, to tone down guilt, etc; but that is not servanthood.

True servanthood is not about imitating Jesus or trying to be like him through our own self-efforts.

True Servanthood is:

True servanthood flows out of a deep friendship with Jesus. True servanthood is empowered by the Holy Spirit as a result of abiding or remaining in Christ, producing spiritual, eternal fruit in becoming more like Jesus and touching many lives for Jesus by drawing people to him. (Read: John 15:5-17)

True servanthood is characterized by loving obedience to the Lord, and compassionate ministry to others.

True servanthood enables us to grow up mature and real in Christ, with authenticity. It is about living in Jesus and Jesus living in us by the power of the Holy Spirit. It is about Jesus then living through us to reach out to a broken world with love and friendship, centred in our loving friendship with Him first.

"True servanthood focuses on God and not the individual." ~ Siang-Yang Tan

Q - Is Servanthood Optional?

Look up Ephesians 2:10

Discuss

Some thoughts:

"God saved us to conform us to the image of His Son, Jesus (Romans 8:28–29). In order to do that, we must learn to serve and to give just as He did." ~ Charles Swindoll.

"If we call Jesus Christ 'Lord', that implies: Jesus is our master, and we are to do what He asks of us" ~ John Wimber

God has always expected His called/chosen people to respond to Him by loving, obeying, and serving Him. (Deuteronomy 10:12; Matthew 22:37-40; Philippians 2:5-7)

Question - What can we learn from the way Jesus served?

Central to Jesus' service was a deep awareness of the Father's love and approval even before beginning His ministry.

Jesus continued to spend intimate time alone with His Father. From that interaction with His Father, Jesus understood what to do and what not to do, and how to say NO to many of the demands placed upon him, in order to fulfil His Father's will.

We who are eager to serve as Jesus did often forget that God wants us to "be" with Him before we "do" for Him.

"The greatest competitor of devotion to Jesus is service for Him." ~ Oswald Chambers

What are some of the Barriers to Servanthood?

- Unwillingness to give up control
- An attitude of superiority
- Selfishness

What are our Motivations for Servanthood?

- Obedience (Deuteronomy 13:40)
- Gratitude (1 Samuel 12:24)
- Gladness (Psalm 100:2)
- Forgiveness, not guilt (Isaiah 6:6-8)
- Humility (Philippians 2:3-4)
- Love (2 Corinthians 5:14-15; Galatians 5:13).

Share

How has God challenged you and helped you grow through serving others?

How has God blessed and rewarded you through serving for Him?