

## **The Servant Principle (John 13: 1-17)**

### **I. The Mindset of a Servant of God (v1-v5)**

- A. A servant of God knows where he/she is going (Heaven). (v1)
- B. A servant of God is focused on loving others accordingly (v1)
- C. A servant of God is aware of his enemies (v2)
- D. A servant of God knows the parameters of his/her authority. (v3)
- E. A servant of God does not mind doing the least job in the room although he/she may be the one in the greatest authority in the room. (v4-v5)

### **II. The Methods of a Servant of God's (v5-v11)**

- A. A servant of God serves others in ways that demonstrates humility. (v5-v6)
- B. A servant of God serves others in ways that demonstrates love. (v5-v6)
- C. A servant of God serves others in ways that prepare others for future ministry.(v7)
- D. A servant of God serves others in ways that help others stay in fellowship with God.(v 8-v9)
- E. A servant of God serves others in ways that help others walk in Holiness with God (v10-v11)

### **III. The Motivation of a Servant of God (v12-v17)**

- A. A servant of God should be driven by the conviction of Christ as Teacher and Lord; knowing what God says is Right and He is in authority over all (v12-v13)
- B. A servant of God should be seeking to follow the example of his/her Teacher and Lord in his/her service to others.(They were to serve one another in way that would keep one another in fellowship and holiness with God) (v14-v15)
- C. A servant of God should be driven by the fact that he/she is a slave to God; being ready and willing to obey God's will in serving others (v16)
- D. A servant of God should be seeking to represent God not self in his/her service to others (v16)
- E. A servant of God should be driven by the fact that he/she will be blessed in the action of serving not in the knowledge that he/she should serve.(Knowledge puffs up self but loves builds up others) (v17)

### **IV. The Ministry of a Servant of God**

- A. Helping unbelievers recover from sin and move into a right relationship with God (Matthew 28:18-20)
- B. Helping believers grow in maturity in faith in Jesus Christ and Christ-like character (Ephesians 4:11-16)
- C. Helping believers recover from sin and mature in fellowship with God (Galatians 6:1-2)
- D. Providing the monetary and material items to believers so that they may function in society as God intended and being willing to open one's home to needy Christians as is deemed biblical wise to do so (1John 3:16-19, 1Peter 4:9)
- E. Providing the monetary and material items to unbelievers in need to demonstrate the character of God to them (Proverbs 19:17)

## Do You Have a Servant Attitude?

**Question**                      **Do You**                      **or**                      **Do You**

1. When someone insults you	Turn the other cheek, return blessings for cursing	Mount a counter attack and always fight back
2. When someone asks you to give of your time, talents or treasure	Give everything possible and walk the extra mile if necessary	Grasps, protect and cling onto personal time and schedules
3. When you face suffering and pain	Face it with quiet confidence and continual joy	Gripe, complain and question God
4. When you serve or perform tasks faithfully	Expect no recognition or reward	Desire self glory or applause, always wanting compensation and recognition
5. When you don't get your way and face disappointment	Continue to praise God being content in every situation	Always want more and are never content or satisfied
6. When asked to sacrifice your own preference for the sake of others	Gladly sacrifice for others	Constantly demand to have things your way
7. When asked to do menial tasks	See no task as to menial or humble	Want no part in humbling menial tasks
8. When asked to serve	Gladly respond and serve to fulfill a purpose in life	Instead want to be served
9. When you see sin in other people	Grieve over sin in people's lives and have compassion and mercy toward them	Criticize, judge and condemn them
10. When you see someone who is down and out	Respond in love, mercy, generosity and acceptance	Snub your nose at them and are too concerned with your own agenda to make time for those really hurting
11. When asked to follow someone else's leadership	Gladly follow spiritual leaders with a spirit of love and joy, encouraging those who lead	Constantly criticize and be cynical and suspicious of them leading
12. When asked to submit to authority	Gladly submit to the authorities God has placed over you	Resist submitting to any authority
13. When asked to step out of your comfort zone	Gladly vacate comfort zones, understanding that Christ's call is not to a life of comfort and convenient	Resist abandoning the comfort zone, not wanting to do anything uncomfortable or inconvenient
14. When asked to forgive someone who has truly offended you	Gladly and intentionally forgive because you have been forgiven of much	Hold grudges and harbor bitterness and anger and feel justified
15. When other people receive recognition and reward	Find joy in their success	Feel jealous and hostile