

Short Sheet # 5

Servanthood and Submission to Authority

Power. Glory. Success. Throughout human history these have captured the hearts of men and women. In the midst of a society which measures worth by position and wealth, it is no wonder that Christians have struggled to stand for the values of the kingdom of God: humility, self-denial, gentleness, love. In the eyes of the world these are often signs of weakness rather than strength. Yet in stark contrast to the values of our day, Jesus came not to be served but to serve. He calls us to follow in his steps. (Christian Character: Andrea Sterk and Peter Scazzero)

1. What do you understand about the concept of serving?

2. How do you feel about serving?

3. Who does God want you to serve? Read Matt 4:10, Gal 6:10, Deut 6:13.

4. Is serving important and natural? (Gift?)

Jesus completely redefined leadership and rearranged the lines of authority. He was not just reversing the "pecking order", as many suppose. He was abolishing it.

5. Jesus was the greatest servant. What does His words and example teach us?
Read Matt 20 25-28, Mark 10:45, John 13:14-17, Phil. 25-8.

6. What characteristics of a servant are encouraged in each of the following verses or passages?
 - a. Matt 6:1-4

 - b. Mark 9:33-37

 - c. Eph 6.5

 - d. Col 3:22-24

 - e. 2 Tim 2:24-25

 - f. Titus 2:9-10

 - g. 1 Peter 5:1-4

7. Describe the range of activities a Christian can be involved in. Read Acts 6:1-4, 1Thess. 2:8, Matt 25:31-46

8. Here are some forms of service. Can you think of ways you could exhibit them?
Service of:
 - a. guarding others reputations

- b. being served
- c. common courtesy
- d. hospitality
- e. listening
- f. bearing others burdens

Self-righteous Service vs. True Service
(Something to think and pray about)

Self-righteous Service	True Service
Comes through human effort	Comes from a relationship with Jesus Christ
Is impressed with the big deal.	Finds it almost impossible to distinguish the small from the large service. Welcomes all opportunities to serve.
Requires external words.	Rests contented in service. It doesn't fear the lights and blare of the attention, but does not seek them either.
Is highly concerned about results.	Is free of the need to calculate results. It delights only in the service.
Picks and chooses whom to serve.	Is indiscriminate in its ministry. Has heard the command of Jesus to serve all (Mk 9:35)
Is affect by moods and whims.	Ministers simply and faithfully because there is a need. It does not allow the feeling to control the service, but rather the service disciplines the feelings.
Is temporary.	Is a lifestyle.
Is without sensitivity.	Knows there is a time to serve and a time not to serve.
Fractures community. In the final analysis it centres in the glorification of the individual. Therefore it puts others into debt and becomes a subtle and destructive form of manipulation which results in ruptured community.	Builds community. It quietly and unpretentiously goes on caring for the needs of others. It puts no one under obligation to return the service. It draws, binds, heals and builds. The result is the unity of the community.