

Servanthood: How To Be A Servant In The Hood

Phil. 2:5-7; Heb. 2:14

I. God has given His children many wonderful titles and names.

1. God has given His children many names and titles to identify the redemptive work that He has done in us and the potential for greatness that we have in Him. We are told that we are more than conquerors, righteousness of God in Christ, Priests and kings, ambassadors, saints, sons, etc. These are a part of our heritage.
2. Some of those titles are those that reflect our victorious position. Some reflect the royalty that we share with Christ. Some reflect our sonship connection with God. Then there are some that reflect the service we are to render unto Him. None demonstrate this more than the title – SERVANT.
3. Some who are spiritually immature or carnally minded do not find this aspect of God's Word exciting. To them it means *bondage*. However, you must remember that you were once a servant to sin and Satan, so you were already in bondage before you were saved (Rom. 6:16-18; Eph. 2:1-6; Col. 1:12-14; Acts 26:18; John 8:32-36). Being a Servant of Christ is actually freedom. He loves us as brothers and sons and His servitude is not burdensome or difficult (1 John 5:3).

II. Jesus is our model and example of what it means to be a servant.

1. Jesus' life demonstrates that there is nothing demeaning about being a servant of God. He, who was and is God, became a servant to His Father (and yet, continued to acknowledge Him as a Father).
2. The object of Jesus' ministry was to do the will of God – Heb. 10:5-10 (See also John 4:34; 5:30; 6:38; 15:10; John 17:4). We should follow the example of our Lord and make doing God's will our focus and objective in life.
3. We serve God primarily by serving others as the Lord did (Matt. 10:42; 25:34-40). What we do in service to others is done to Christ.
 - a. Some people want to be ministers (preachers) only because they want to be able to speak to others and receive some ego trip. This ministry (or service) of the Word is to help others by promoting Christ – not yourself.
 - b. If we want greatness, we must learn to be servants because this is God's pathway to greatness (Matt. 20:27; 23:11). This is the exact path that Jesus took before He was exalted (Phil. 2:7-10).

IV. Power For Service

1. God empowers His servants for service – Eph. 1:18-19; 2 Cor. 12:9
 - a. God empowers His servants to stand: *Who are you to judge the house-servant of another? To his own lord he stands firm or falls; and stand he will, for the Lord is powerful to make him stand.* (Rom. 14:4; Messianic Renewed)
2. There are two great potencies in the universe – God and the believer. “With God all things are possible” (Matt. 19:26). “Everything is possible for him who believes” (Mark 9:23). It is very wonderful that God should thus harness His omnipotence to a human life and put the reins in the hands of humble faith. (Albert B. Simpson, *Serving the King*).
3. God will work the miraculous through us – heal the sick (Physically and emotionally), cast out devils, bring deliverance from sin, give supernatural words of knowledge and prophecy, etc. However, these miracles are not meant to glorify us or promote us. God gives us His power so that we can serve Him. If there is a lack of power in the church today, it could be due to the lack of willingness to serve the Lord. He does not give His power for our personal delight and entertainment
4. Scriptures: Mark 16:14-20; Luke 10:18-20; John 14:11-13; Acts 1:8

V. God’s Benefit Package

1. God has promised to never forget your labor of love and service (Heb. 6:10).
 - a. Our service and labor will be rewarded at the judgment seat of Christ (Matt. 25:19-23, 34-40; Rom. 14:10-12; 1 Cor. 3:9-15; 9:27; 4:5; 2 Cor. 5:10; Rev. 2:10, 17, 26-28; 3:5, 12, 21).
 - b. The above are some wonderful and exciting *future* rewards, and Christians should take time to study them. However, God also promises some temporal, or benefits for serving Him right here on earth (Psalm 27:13).
2. Some of the exciting temporal/earthly benefits of serving God
 - a. The Father Himself will honor you (John 12:26; Matt. 25:21). An example is the commendation He gave to Caleb for fully following Him (Num. 14:24).
 - b. An abundance (more than enough) of all that you need – Luke 15:17:

And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! (King James Version)

‘And having come to himself, he said, How many hirelings of my father have a superabundance of bread, and I here with hunger am perishing! (Young’s Literal Translation)

But having come to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have an abundance of bread, and I am perishing with hunger! (English Majority Text)

But when he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have more than enough food, and here I am dying of hunger! (Holman Christian Standard)

At last he came to his senses and said, 'All my father's hired workers have more than they can eat, and here I am about to starve! (Good News Bible)

"But on coming to himself he said, "How many of my father's hired men have more bread than they want, while I here am dying of hunger! (Wesley New Testament)

- c. Blessing over food and drink, protection from sickness, fruitfulness, and victory over our enemies:

And ye shall serve the LORD your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee. There shall nothing cast their young, nor be barren, in thy land: the number of thy days I will fulfil. I will send my fear before thee, and will destroy all the people to whom thou shalt come, and I will make all thine enemies turn their backs unto thee. (Exodus 23:25-27)

- d. Divine protection from physical harm:

No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD. (Isa. 54:17)

Heritage – something that one receives or is entitled to receive by succession (as from a parent). (Webster’s Collegiate Thesaurus)

- e. Authority over the devil:

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you (James 4:7).

Those who are under authority have the right to exercise authority (Matthew 8:5-13)