

## A CHRISTIAN IS SAVED TO SERVE

Hebrews 9:14; 12:28; Romans 12:1

(Not entirely original with me)

**Introduction:** Becoming a Christian is something that only God, the Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit can do for a person, however once that person has become one of God's children, an heir to the throne of God, saved, indwelt with the Holy Spirit, there are some responsibilities that the Christian has. With so much having been done and being done for the Christian by God, there is a "reasonable service" which every Christian is expected to carry out.

### I. A CHRISTIAN IS EXPECTED TO BE A SERVANT TO/FOR GOD

1. Being a servant of God is a great honor:

- "Servant" is what many great men in the Old Testament were called:
  - Abraham, Isaac, Jacob - Deuteronomy 9:27
  - Moses - 1 Kings 8:53
  - Joshua - Joshua 24:29
  - Caleb - Numbers 14:24
  - Job - Job 1-8
  - Isaiah - Isaiah 20:3
  - The Prophets - Jeremiah 7:25
- Writers of the New Testament referred to themselves as "servants:"
  - James - James 1:1
  - Paul - Romans 1:1; Philippians 1:1
  - Peter - 2 Peter 1:1
  - Jude - Jude 1
  - John - Revelation 1:1

2. Jesus came to "serve:"

- It was foretold of Him coming as the "Suffering Servant" - Isaiah 52:13-53:12
- He came "not to be served, but to serve..." - Matthew 20:28; Philippians 2:7
- Even as Lord and Master, Jesus exemplified the servitude He wants of His disciples - John 13:12-17

### II. WHAT IS INVOLVED IN SERVANTHOOD

1. Being a servant involves complete obedience:

- It is like a "slave-master" relationship
  - The slave knows no law but his/her master's word.
  - The slave has no rights of his/her own.
  - The slave is the absolute possession of his/her master.
  - The slave is bound to give his/her master unquestioning obedience.
- This should be the relationship to the Lord Jesus Christ that every Christian has.
  - 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
  - A Christian has to come to Jesus on Jesus' terms, not his/her own - Luke 6:46; Matthew 7:21

2. Being a servant involves absolute humility:

- Without absolute humility absolute obedience is impossible.

- One must have a humble opinion of him/herself to be receptive of the idea of complete obedience.
  - Paul is an example - 1 Corinthians 15:9-10; Ephesians 3:8; 1 Timothy 1:15
- If a Christian gripes and complains about what Jesus tells one to do, can that person really be considered a "servant?"

3. Being a servant involves absolute loyalty:

- If a Christian becomes a servant deliberately, on his/her own, shouldn't he/she be expected:
  - to be loyal to Jesus above all else? Galatians 1:10
  - to not consider his/her own profit or wants more important than Jesus?
- Sadly, some claim to be servants of the Lord Jesus but at the same time:
  - Complain and gripe about having to do the will of God.
  - Are negligent or lazy in carrying out the will of God.
- Some Christians act as if they are being forced against their own will:
  - Nobody has to serve the Lord Jesus Christ.
    - However the alternative is not so inviting.
    - If a Christian does not serve Jesus, then he/she serves Satan.
  - God by His grace offers salvation, so how dare any Christian grumble or complain that God wants that Christian to give his/her life of service in appreciation.

### III. THERE ARE HINDRENCES TO BEING A SERVANT TO THE LORD

1. A hindrance to being a servant to the Lord is being a servant to the wrong Master.
  - Jesus said that one cannot serve both God and Mammon (worldly things) - Matthew 6:24
  - Serving the wrong things will render a Christian fruitless - Luke 8:14
  - One can serve ONLY the one he/she obeys - Romans 6:16
2. A hindrance to being a servant to the Lord is placing limitations on one's service.
  - Sadly, some limit how, where and when they will serve:
    - Moses tried to do that - Exodus 3:10, 11
    - There are those who will serve God, BUT only when convenient.
  - Some limit WHO they will serve:
    - Jonah tried that - Jonah 1:1-3
    - Some will serve God, but not when it means having to serve others, people they don't like.
3. A hindrance to being a servant to the Lord is having certain wrong attitudes:
  - An attitude of slowness and laziness - Hebrews 6:11-12; Matthew 25:26
  - An attitude of ingratitude - 2 Corinthians 8:9; Philippians 2:5-7
    - This happens when a person forgets how graciously he/she has been served.
    - Some want service with a smile - but are unwilling to give a smile back
  - An attitude of pride or self-centeredness -
    - Elijah suffered from self-pity - 1 Kings 19:13-18
    - Some preached Christ but out of envy, jealousy - Philippians 1:15-18
    - Some seek recognition and praise for themselves - Matthew 6:1-4
  - Humility and unselfishness are basic prerequisites for being a servant of the Lord.
    - Acts 20:19; Philippians 2:3-4

## CONCLUSION:

1. There is no doubt, the Christian has been "saved to serve:"
  - He/she is called to serve God and the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - He/she is called to serve his/her fellow believers and those in the world
  - Being a servant to the Lord Jesus Christ is a noble calling and should be accepted with humility and gratitude by every Christian.
  
2. Those who for whatever reason do not serve God:
  - will remain a slave to sin - Romans 16:16a
  
3. When one does choose to serve God:
  - His/her servatude will lead to righteousness - Romans 16:16c
  - He/she will receive a reward when standing before God at the end of his/her life.