



COVENANT CHURCH

## 12 Characteristics between Sons and Servants

### 1. Sons build the house; servants maintain the house.

Building the house is superior to serving in the house. For example, are you just teaching a Sunday school class or are you building the people/families? Some people would say, "I am just an usher." A son, who serves as an usher, will see everyone who comes through the door as perspective building material to be added to the family. He is always alert and initiating. Servants never initiate. They simply do what they are told. If there is trash in the floor, the servant says, "I wasn't hired to pick it up. It is not my job." But the son will pick it up. He has no problem with the mediocre, mundane tasks because he has the heart of the father. He has the right mentality. So, are you building or are you just ushering?

### 2. Sons hold the father's heart and the success of his work as their own. Servants take from the work.

Luke 16:12 says if you are not faithful in that which is not your own, how can you have your own? Everybody starts off in the kingdom with an opportunity to be faithful to that which belongs to someone else. A lot of people want their own church or ministry. They've never learned how to be faithful in their spiritual father's house. Servants take; sons inherit. It is given from the father to the son.

Today, we have ambitious men who jump out as servants to start their own ministry. They have a call and future to have their own, but they don't get sent out with the father's blessing. They take, rather than inherit. Stewardship of ministry is learned in the spiritual father's house. You must wait upon your ministry there.

### 3. Sons are always family oriented. Servants are issue oriented.

The servant will split the family on an issue. He is not a family man. He focuses on issues and draws people over to his side. The son has the father's agenda and did not come in to do his own thing. Sons always think corporately. Servants have their own rights.

### 4. Sons use the language of the family. Servants use individual terminology.

Sons say, we, our, or us. Servants say, me, mine, my or they. Hireling's language can sound like the son's language. However, under pressure, their language breaks down and their real vocabulary is known. Listen to the vocabulary of those you're working with. Their words will tell you whether they are a son or a servant. For example, if the church is under attack, the son will say, "We're under attack and we're going through it. Why?"

Because the church is our family. If my wife is under attack, I am under attack. If the pastor is under attack, then you're under attack because this is your family. What language are we speaking?

#### **5. Sons honor headship and cover the nakedness of their fathers. Servants trade in exposing nakedness.**

Sons never delight in exposing the nakedness of spiritual authority. Colossians 2:19 tells us to hold fast to the head. Servants won't do this, but they will use nakedness of authority to promote themselves. Noah got drunk and got naked. One of his three sons gloried in it and made a mockery of it. He told everyone else about it. He did not see himself as attached to his father and his father's honor. But the two other sons clothed Noah, walking backwards so as to not see his nakedness. Which of the sons received honor? Noah was a good man doing a bad thing. The two sons saw their honor as attached to him. Covering his nakedness is covering weakness- not sin. Exposing the nakedness if the father is not a motive or characteristic of the son. When someone you're considering for leadership speaks of his leader, what does he say? Does he undermine, and promote the nakedness (weakness or failure) of what he has seen in the one over him? If you place this person in leadership, somewhere down the road there will be destruction.

God builds the house with sons. He guards the house with sons. Psalms 127:5 says, "they will speak with the enemies at the gates." When any attack comes upon the lighthouse, the sons resist the enemy. In times of attack, the father should never have to defend himself. It is not God's design that the fathers defend themselves. The sons do this. In the time of trouble, the servant will expose the nakedness of a father because he is offended. A son will cover. If anything is handled wrong, the spiritual father of the house takes responsibility. He has nothing to hide. The sons surround him. Always remember this statement: God doesn't build on ministry, but on relationships. It is out of relationships come ministry.

#### **6. Sons honor naturally the chain of command. Servants continually question the order of authority.**

Sons honor the father's command because of their deep love for the father. When the father places someone over them that they find difficult to flow with, the son doesn't leave or look for another ministry to join. The test separates servants from sons. Can you submit to the authority of someone you don't like? A good soldier submits to any commander. Kingdom means government and rule. Jesus operates through delegated authority in the earth. This is how He rules the earth. If you reject them, you reject Him.

#### **7. Sons want to share their lives with the father. Servants are independent.**

The vision of the house comes first, and then the sons buy into it. The vision came before the sons. When the son showed, the vision was already established. Sons don't try to change the vision of the house. They serve the vision. One of the greatest problems in the church today is trying to build on servants who were never sons in the first place. The vision comes first.

**8. Sons bond new people to the family and the father. Servants bond new people to themselves.**

In a storm, you find where people are bonded. Sons have no agenda of their own. The man with his own agenda bonds the new people to himself. These individuals are not building the house. They are building their own vision within the house.

**9. Sons focus on the welfare of people. Servants focus on appearance.**

When you're not fathered, you're insecure. You draw your significance, self-worth and meaning from how things appear. It has to look good and successful. The numbers have to be inflated. You have no sense of self-worth with the father so you try and look good on your own. In Matthew 6:5, Jesus said that a mark of hypocrisy is doing certain things to be seen of men. But Jesus was secure in His Father's love so He didn't have to try and do things to look good. When your father doesn't validate you, you have to be validated by what you can make happen around you. Sons get worthiness by seeing the people's needs met, not their own.

**10. Sons share their inner conversations. Servants tell you only what they want you to know.**

Inner conversations are what you really think, feel and believe. If you're spending a lot of time with people who aren't telling you what they're really thinking, you're wasting your time. You're wasting building time. A son will share his heart and what's really bothering him. God builds marriages the same way. True intimacy takes place when you're able to speak to the loved one in your life, sharing problems and concerns. A staff, a relationship, or a family is a relationship based on transparency, intimacy and trust. You are all sharing inner conversations. You ask a servant, "How are you, brother?" and his answer will be, "Fine, no problems." The truth is he is struggling. He is thinking about giving up but won't open his heart to you. You can't build with people like this. His root problem is he wants to look good to you and not get real. A son will tell you what is on his heart. Jesus told His disciples, "I call you no more servants, but friends." (John 15:15) A friend shares his heart.

**11. Sons are secure and can handle correction, discipline and change. Servants place the fault on someone else.**

Hebrews 12:7 says God deals with us as sons. If He doesn't, we're illegitimate. Servants cannot take discipline. It is always someone else's fault. They can't take responsibility because they are insecure. They're afraid of rejection. It's not something you do to your children, it's something you do for your children, out of love. The way you know if someone is with you is if they stay with you after correction. Servants receive their self-esteem from their particular gift and find it difficult to have anyone try to sharpen their gift. God joined joints welcome discipline. People who are not joined are independent contractors and they have their own idea and want to bring their agenda into the body.

**12. Sons have puppy feet; you can see their potential. Servants come into the house fully grown.**

Servants aren't willing to learn much. They're not teachable. They already know everything. Sons want to learn and want to get it right. They want to strive for the best with a spirit of excellence. A son is ready to take the blame for any wrong doing because he is secure and honest.

When God builds on sons, it will endure. Let's choose people to build with who have the heart and spirit of a son. We must not choose servants who have the ability and gifts. We must choose sons. Sons or servants – which ones are we?