

PHILOSOPHY OF SERVICE: CHARACTER PART 1

We increase in SERVICE, but also in being a SERVANT. SERVICE is not a task, or a burden, but a pillar for growth.

JOHN 4:27-35 NIV

27 Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, "What do you want?" or "Why are you talking with her?"

28 Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, 29 "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?" 30 They came out of the town and made their way toward him.

31 Meanwhile his disciples urged him, "Rabbi, eat something."

32 But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you know nothing about."

33 Then his disciples said to each other, "Could someone have brought him food?"

34 **"My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.** 35 Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.

The Britannica Dictionary defines CHARACTER as the way someone thinks, feels, and behaves; someone's personality — usually singular. A person's character is not just a collection of traits, but a dynamic force that shapes their decisions, relationships, and ultimately, their destiny.

"Be more concerned with your character than your reputation, because your character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are."

John Wooden

1 TIMOTHY 3:3-4 MSG

He must handle his own affairs well, attentive to his own children and having their respect. For if someone is unable to handle his own affairs, how can he take care of God's church?

CHARACTER begins in our own homes. **PRIVATE CHARACTER HAS PUBLIC REPERCUSSIONS.** The moral character of an individual or the lack of it has a tremendous impact not only on his personal life but also on the group, society, church, workplace, and nation he belongs to.

WE ARE CALLED TO CHRIST-LIKE CHARACTER.

ROMANS 8:29 NLT

29 For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

EPHESIANS 5:1-2 NIV

1 Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children 2 and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.



1. BE GOD'S PUPIL OF SERVANTHOOD

LUKE 10:40-42 NIV

40 But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" 41 "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, 42 but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

1st century blessing given to disciples
"May you always be covered by the dust of your rabbi."

Meaning:
"May you follow him so closely that the dust his feet kicks up is what cakes your clothing and lines your face."

"What the church really needs now is the quality of life God intended for them to experience and manifest that only happens when they choose to be his disciples."
Dallas Willard

It is so easy to be a CHURCHIAN, more difficult to be a CHRISTIAN. It is easier to be RELIGIOUS, more difficult to be RELATIONAL. It is easier to SERVE, harder to be a SERVANT! To do the work of service is one thing. To do it with a heart of a servant is another thing.

WE NEED THE SPIRIT OF A SERVANT.

PHILIPPIANS 2:5-8 ESV

5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 **but emptied himself**, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

JOHN 13:15-17 NIV

15 For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. 16 Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

1 PETER 2:21-23 NIV

21 To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. 22 "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." 23 When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. In what ways have you been more concerned about your REPUTATION over your CHARACTER?
2. How can you better exhibit a Christ-like spirit of servanthood in your area of service?