



A SERVANT OF GOD

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A Legend

The legend is told of a desert wanderer who found a crystal spring of unsurpassed freshness. The water was so pure he decided to bring some to his king. Barely satisfying his own thirst, he filled a leather bottle with the clear liquid and carried it many days beneath the desert sun before he reached the palace.

When he finally laid his offering at the feet of his sovereign, the water had become stale and rank due to the old container in which it had been stored. But the king would not let his faithful subject even imagine that it was unfit for use. He tasted it with expression of gratitude and delight, and sent away the loyal heart filled with gladness.

After he had gone, others sampled it and expressed their surprise that the king had even pretended to enjoy it.

“Ah” said he, it was not the water he tasted, but the love that prompted the offering.

Many times our live/ actions/ thoughts/parenthood/service is marked by multiplied imperfections, but the Master looks at our motives and says “It is good”.

Who can be a servant?

All Christians are called on to be servants. **Can you find out where in the Bible ? (H.W.)**

-Our Lord Jesus Christ calls on us to empty ourselves in order to be a child of God.

- “For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” [Mark 10:45](#)
- “For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.” [Galatians 5:13](#)
- “This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy.” [1 Corinthians 4:1-2](#)

- “And Jesus called them to him and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” [Mark 10:42-45](#)
- “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.” [John 13:16](#)

What does it mean to be a Servant?

Jesus defined what it means to be a servant.

John 13:3-17

¹³ “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶ Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

What does it mean to be a Servant of God?

1. It is to humble oneself and put the good of others before self.
2. It is to lose your life in service for God and others.
3. It is the opposite of pride and arrogance, or wanting to elevate self.

The Attitude of a Servant of God

- 1. Is a mind set we adopt -
I Corinthians 9:19

“**19** For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them.”

- 2. Is without consideration of repayment - Luke 6:34-35

“³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.”

- 3. Is unselfish - Philippians 2:3-8

“³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

- ⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:
- ⁶ Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;
⁷ rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.
⁸ And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!+

- 4. Is preferential to another, putting others first - Romans 12:10

“**10** Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.”

Characteristics of a Servant

- Love of God – knows and loves God
- Action and not words – serve by action as a role model and a leader
- Humility – foundation of serve as laid by our Lord – our goal is only to bring others closer to Christ
- Responsible and Reliable – mature and serious about the service exactly as a parent is serious about parenting his/her children

- Maturity – emotionally and spiritually mature in the service, stable and balanced in thoughts and actions, able to withstand problems with spiritual strength
- Obedience – fundamental foundation of service – obedient and respect hierarchy and order laid down by the church – does this mean a servant is not allowed to question any one ??

- Self-denial and sacrifice – giving our hearts completely to God
- Sincerity – there is no place for superficiality in service (dangerous disease) which leads to spiritual stagnation and decline (emphasize the outside appearance rather than the internal).

Importance of being a good role model

- We are ambassadors of God- love for everyone
- Orthodox heritage – 2Thessalonians 2:15- “¹⁵ Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.”

we have to uphold and maintain our Coptic Orthodox traditions, without change.

- Leadership – being a spiritual leader
- The watchful Eye – kids watch and imitate every single move of the elders and Sunday School servants

A moment to take a deeper look!

Is there a difference between a Servant of God and a Parent?

How many times have you acted in the church and your actions were marked by wanting to serve or by a desire to be served?

What is our motive? Are we motivated more by a desire to be served? Or To lead and get honor? Or to serve and receive praise?

Thank you!

