



The Joy of Service

THE WHOLE IDEA OF SERVICE SEEMS TO RUN COUNTER TO WHAT WE ARE TAUGHT, WHICH IS, TO **DO OUR OWN THING.**

Romans 6:12-14 . . . Instead, give yourselves completely to God . . . use your whole body as a tool to do what is right. The Spirit of God *transforms* our motives for servicing.

Galatians 5:13 . . . You, dear friends, have been called to live in freedom-*not freedom* to satisfy your flesh, *but freedom to serve* one another *in love*.

Could it be that the reason He places such a high value on serving *because* it is other's centered rather than self-centered - and *isn't* that the focus of effective Christian living?

Philippians 2:5-9 says; . . . Your attitude should be *the same* that Christ Jesus had. Though He was God, He did not demand and cling to His rights as God. He made himself nothing; He took the humble position of *a servant* and appeared in human form. And in human form, He obediently humbled himself even further by dying a criminal's death on a cross. Because of this, God raised Him up to the heights of heaven and gave Him a name that is above every other name.

Though Jesus was God, He did *not* demand and cling to His rights as God, but set them *aside* to serve others. The heart of this lesson is: YOU *have* to be a follower, in order to *become* a leader.

SO, WHAT IS MEANT BY *HAVING A SERVANT'S HEART*?

Romans 6:12-13 say's. . . Use your whole body as a tool to *do* what is right for the glory of God. God has filled our hearts with His love and *given* each person many talents and other resources to use for his service. If you *invest* your gifts by *servicing* the people He loves, then He will *ensure* a good return.

WHAT THE APOSTLE PAUL WANTS US TO SEE IS THIS: SERVING OTHERS IS A CHRISTIAN'S BEST WAY, TO BECOME MORE LIKE CHRIST. We must realize then that we *can't* serve Jesus while ignoring our brothers and sisters in Christ - We *can't* serve the Head at the expense of the Body. *It's impossible to serve the Head while kicking the Body in the knees.*

Jesus Himself made that clear when He said, "As ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." The fact is - If we *desire* to minister to the Head of the Church, the *primary way* we can do it; is by *ministering* to the Body through our 'serving and our giving'. Once we understand this we'll *not only* be willing to serve and give - we'll *be thrilled* to do it!