## What does it mean to be a servant of God? pt1 Philippians 2:3-7

Jesus reminds us of the lowly place a servant occupies: John 13;3-17,

If Christ, the Lord and master, can wash the feet of His disciples, how was it that they did not recognize that it would have been the proper thing for them to have washed His. <u>Luke 17:10</u>

When Jesus came to earth the first time, He came not as King and Conqueror, but as the suffering Servant of <u>Isaiah 53</u>:4

"Servant" is a translation of the Greek word *doulos*, which means more literally "a slave or <u>bondservant</u>, someone who sets aside all rights of his own to serve another." <u>Romans 1:1; Colossians 4:12; Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 4:6 Jude 1:1</u>.

A servant of Christ is one who has voluntarily set aside his or her personal rights in order to love, serve, and obey the will of God in Christ Jesus. Servants of Christ die daily to sin and fleshly desires, allowing Christ's life to flow through them <u>Galatians 2:20</u>.

Servants of Christ do their work humbly and selflessly, desiring only to please their benevolent Master. There's no pretension, no self-importance, no compensation-seeking in true servanthood. <u>Matthew 20:28</u>

Servants of Christ consider their lives on earth as a brief time of preparation for eternity. The hardships and struggles we must face while in the flesh will be far outmatched by the glory and reward awaiting us. <u>Revelation 22:3</u>, <u>2 Corinthians 4:17</u>. John 15:15

Just as a servant who loves his master lives for the master's approval, so servants of Christ live for the moment He will say, "Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of your Master!" <u>Matthew 25:21, 23</u>

To be a servant of Christ is to seek His will in all things. Our primary desire every day, as servants of Christ, is to honor and glorify the One who bought our freedom from sin <u>1 Corinthians 10:31</u>.

This means we must die to ourselves renounce our right to direct our own lives and seek ways to bring our Master pleasure and seek ways to bring our Master pleasure. <u>Luke 9:23</u>, <u>Luke 6:46</u>, <u>Psalm 37:23</u>; <u>Proverbs 11:20</u>.

Just as a master in ancient times took on the responsibility of caring for his bondservants, so our Lord says that He will provide all we need when we seek first His kingdom and His righteousness <u>Matthew 6:33</u>; <u>Philippians 4:19</u>.

In ancient times, slaves were purchased or born into a slave family and served the master until they died or until the master decided to free them. Some slaves had developed such a close and loving relationship with the master's family that they wanted to continue serving, even when they could go free. <u>1 Corinthians 6:20</u>