

Jesus Christ our savior, we are taught, is the ultimate example we are to follow in every aspect of life. As a teacher, he taught with authority and at the same time humility. As God's physician he healed with mercy and compassion. The scriptures teach that everything He did was with the heart and mind of a servant. If we are to be like Him, created in His image, we must understand a Godly definition of service. We must see His example, His heart, His mind.

First of all, what does it mean to be a servant? Why do the rich employ servants? Why do merchants employ people to serve their customers? Why does a farmer harness a horse to a plow? The answer is a very simple one, that we often overlook. To serve is simply to make life easier for someone else. We even build machines to make things easier for ourselves. For most of us this is one of our goals in life, to make life easier. Let's examine just a few things our God and savior has done for us so that we might see and follow His example. The first thing that comes to mind is the verse in Matthew 11:27-30, "Take my yoke . . . for my yoke is easy". Jesus was and is serving. He is telling us that it is easier to be yoked to Him serving God than to be serving ourselves or the things of the world or even the law as did the Pharisees in his day. Now of course, the scriptures teach us that to serve God is to serve one another. This is what Jesus did. He made things easier for those around him. During His ministry He healed thousands of people. In doing so He eased their suffering. Why did He feed the 4000? He did not want them making the long journey home after not eating for three days. Do you see? This is the love of God, to ease each others burdens.

Look at Romans 15:1-3 "We then who are strong owe it to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please *his* neighbor for *his* good, so that we would build each other up. For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me." Do you see? It is easy to do nothing. We are not suppose to make it easy for ourselves, but for someone else instead. We all know that God paid the debt of sin for us. It would be more than just hard to approach Him without this payment, it would be impossible. Jesus Christ died for our sins to make it easy to approach God. All we need to do is

believe and confess. He gave us a Book and is teaching us His ways so that we may obtain eternal life. Jesus Christ gave us a pattern to follow, where would we be without this favor God has bestowed on us. Life can be very difficult even with the grace of God.

As servants of God we must keep finding ways to make things easier for one another. All the way from opening a door for someone to teaching and praying for each other and everything in between. Every day is full of simple things we can do for each other. This is the heart of a servant and the heart of God. We all need to find a new goal in life, which is to make life more easy for others. This is the love of God.

1John 3:16 tells us, "By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us, we also owe it to lay down *our* lives for the brethren." God is telling us here what He did for us and what He expects us to do for each other. For example: if someone is in debt to me should I wait until that person asks me to forgive the debt or should I go to him, make it easy for him, and tell him the debt is forgiven? Does it matter if that person deserves it? To serve someone is to help them do what is hard to do for themselves, but also to do for them what they can't do for themselves.

Some servants only do what is required of them. They just do the minimum. Did you ever work with someone like that. They do as little as possible. Some even say " that's not my job". They won't do anything extra. Is that what our Lord did? He gave all and He gave the best, not leftovers. Some servants will not do anything unless they are asked. We should look for things to do and jump in and help without needing to be asked. This is why the scriptures tell us "whatever you do, do it heartily as unto the Lord and not unto men", Colassians 3:23. A servant is helpful even if it's "not his job".

When the Lord was on this Earth He said, "I came to serve, not to be served". What a testimony to us. How can we even think to be lazy and unprofitable. Service is just one aspect of God's love. It is very simple but hard to do. It takes work and humility. It takes a ready and willing mind. Did you get that? To make someone's life more easy you have to take the hard part.