

QUALITIES OF A SERVANT

Ephesians 2:10 (NIV) “For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God has prepared in advance for us to do.”

Each one of us was created to serve God. We are all uniquely and wonderfully made with different gifts and abilities.

Becoming a true servant requires a change in our mentality and attitude because God is much more interested in why we do something rather than what we do.

Quality One: Servants find their identity in Christ *1 Peter 4:10-11*

As servants, we must find our identities and strength in Christ. We need to come to the full realisation that we are loved and accepted into God’s Kingdom.

We should not serve to prove our worth to others, but rather we should serve out of our love and reverence to God.

Comparing ourselves to others makes us a servant to them, as we constantly measure ourselves to their standards and not the standards of God.

2 Corinthians 10:18 (CEV) “You may brag about yourself, but the only approval that counts is the Lord’s approval.”

In Philippians Paul refers to himself as a servant of Christ. The original Greek word for servant in this context is ***doulos***, which refers to a slave rather than a hired servant.

Paul knew that he belonged solely to Christ and was completely at His disposal. He was so sure of who he was, which enabled him to serve God with the right heart and mindset; he embodied the characteristics of a true servant of Christ.

Quality Two: Servants make themselves available *Isaiah 6:8*

Availability refers to our willingness to make changes to our own plans and agendas so that we can effectively serve God and others.

We should avoid getting to a place where we are so caught up in our own lives, thinking and plans that we become unavailable to be used by God when He calls.

In *Acts 16:9-10* Paul responded to God's call as soon as he recognised it; he did not hesitate, and he did not make excuses.

Quality Three: Servants do the best with what they have now *Ecclesiastes 11:4*

We will never face perfect conditions, there will always be something that does not fully line up with our plans.

We need to develop eyes and ears to recognise the needs around us at any stage that we find ourselves in on our journeys with God.

We may not always know where God is leading us or how He will use us in our lives today, but we should not let that stop us from serving Him in any way that we can. He will use our service today to have an impact on the people around us and to prepare us for the future plans He has.

Philippians 4:11-13 (CSB) ...I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I find myself...

Quality Four: Servants think of ministry as an opportunity, not an obligation *Psalms 102:2a, John 12:26b, Hebrews 6:10*

Billy Sunday “If you have no joy in your religion, there’s a leak in your Christianity somewhere”.

Joy is rooted in Christ and what He has done for us. *Philippians 2:12-18*

When we focus our mind on the beauty and glory of who Jesus is and what He has done for us, God stirs our heart with joy that can go beyond our circumstances.

When we look at the bigger picture, why are we serving and who we are serving, then we can find the joy in the process.

Although we go through different seasons and circumstances throughout life, we know that Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever.

Quality Five: Servants think about others before themselves *Galatians 5:13-14, Philippians 2:1-5*

At times we serve to get other people to like us, to be admired, to receive approval from others, or to achieve our own goals. This is not the heart of true ministry or service.

When we are comfortable with who we are in the Lord, we find it easier to put others first. We become strong people who care about others; we seek to build others up, not just ourselves.

Paul was more than willing to endure suffering for the betterment of others. *Philippians 2:17*

Conclusion

By personally reflecting on these five qualities of a servant, what areas do you need to improve in order to become a greater servant for Christ?

It does not matter what you are doing, as long as you are serving in some capacity.

Are you giving your all to God?