

Characteristics of a Servant

1. Love of God - The most important characteristic of a servant is that he/she knows and loves God, and is continually striving to know God better.

- We are all sinners. We are not perfect and we never will be perfect. So we are no better than our fellow servants nor are we better than those we serve.

2

- God does not need our service. The Church service will do just fine without us. On the contrary, we are in need of service in order to strengthen our spiritual life.
- We must know our identity. We must know who we are, where we came from and where we are going. We were made out of the dust of the ground: “And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being.” (Genesis 2:7).
- “Jesus, knowing that that Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going back to God, rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. After that He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.” (John 13:3-5).
- James and John - They asked Jesus that one sit on His left and the other on His right in the Kingdom (Mark 10:37). Jesus answered, “Yet is shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all.” (Mark 10:43-45).

- Philippians 2:1-11 talks about unity through humility. Philippians 2:5-11 is sometimes called the Incarnation Song of St. Paul.
4. Responsible and Reliable - The servant must be mature, responsible and reliable. They must be serious about their service. The “faithful servant” that Jesus talks about in the Gospels (Luke 12:35-48 as well as the Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25:14-30), is the one who takes their service seriously. The servant's struggle does not stop until he “presents every man perfect in Jesus Christ,” as St. Paul says.

5. Maturity - The servant must be emotionally and spiritually mature in their service.

6. Obedience - Obedience, like humility, is one of the fundamental foundations of service. Obedience is the key to God's heart. A servant must be obedient and respect the hierarchy and order laid down by the church. Obedience and humility are closely related. The humble servant is obedient,

7. Self-Denial and Sacrifice - Self-denial and sacrifice involves giving our heart completely to God. “My son, give me your heart.” (Proverbs 23:36).

8. Sincerity - There is no place for superficiality in service. A servant must always be sincere and deep to those they serve and to their fellow servants.

9. One-on-One Service - This is the most important and highest form of service. This type of service typically occurs outside of the church.

- Clothing - Servants are expected to wear proper clothing.

Alcohol - We should never drink alcohol at any time, nor should we

have alcohol at home and serve it to anyone.

- Weddings - Weddings are where we can be a great stumbling block. Matrimony is a Sacrament,
- Fasting - We must observe and respect all church fasts.
- Come Early to Church - We must make every effort to come early to church on Sunday and be at church
- The Tongue - We must be soft-spoken, not yell or talk with a loud
- Television
- Bad Company
- Humility - Humility is the basis and rock of service.