

**Sermon outline notes: Serve One Another John 13 vv 1-17
Galatians 5 v 13**

Introduction

In the story of Jesus washing the disciples feet, Jesus redefined 'greatness'. Jesus lived out servanthood before them and called them to the way of service. Jesus rejects the 'pecking order' approach of our culture. How was it to be among his disciples? - 'whoever would be great among you, must be your servant. Even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve'. The spiritual authority of which Jesus spoke was not an authority based on position or title, but in service one to another.

1) **Yes.....but !**

- A fear often arises that says 'won't people take advantage of me?' Here we need to understand the difference between 'Choosing to Serve' and 'Choosing to be a Servant'.
- 'Choosing to Serve' - we remain in charge as to whom we will serve, when we will serve, where we will serve.
- 'Choosing to be a Servant'- we give up the right to be in charge. We become available to all people and because this is our choice we cannot be manipulated but we become vulnerable.
- Greek words for Serve
 - 1) Diaconos- acts of a practical nature.
 - 2) Doulos- literally means 'a slave'.

Paul uses this second word 'doulos' when he says 'serve one another'

2) **Self Righteous Service verses True Biblical Service.**

Self Righteous Service

- 1) Impressed with the big deal!
- 2) Requires external reward.
- 3) Highly concerned with results.
- 4) Picks and chooses whom to Serve.

True Biblical Service

- 1) Finds it impossible to distinguish the small from the large service.
- 2) Knowing God knows is enough.
- 3) Free of need to calculate results
- 4) Indiscriminate in its ministry.

3) **Service in the Marketplace -**

The practicalities of serving one another.

- 1) Service of small things. Acts 9 verse 36
- 2) Service of guarding the reputation of others. Titus 3 verse 2
- 3) Service of hospitality. 1Peter 4 verse 9
- 4) Service of listening to one another.
- 5) Service of bearing one another's burdens. Galatians 6 verse 2
- 6) Service of sharing God's Word with each other.

Conclusion

'We are not to be one master with a lot of slaves, but each is to be one slave with a lot of masters'

A prayer to begin each day?

'Lord Jesus I would appreciate it if you would bring me someone today whom I can serve'.