



## Servant's Corner

May 2012

### Being A Servant

By Rich Henderson, Love INC Director

There is a big difference between being a servant and merely choosing to serve. Being a servant means that “servant” is an essential part of your identity. God allows us to choose whether or not we will be His servants, but once we have made that choice, it becomes a permanent aspect of who we are. It is a role we have taken on, much like the role parents take on with their first child. Baby sitters and parents both care for children, but for parents it is a life-altering commitment. The Apostles understood this. They often introduced themselves in their epistles as, “a bond-servant of Jesus Christ”. In doing so they were following the example of Jesus who, “emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant” (Philippians 2:7a).

A person can choose to serve without bearing any resemblance to Biblical “servanthood”. Serving others might make them feel obligated to serve us in return. In this case our “service” is in reality “manipulation”. We might choose to serve because doing so would bolster our public image—make us look better. In this case our “service” is in reality the sin of pride in disguise. We might choose to serve in order to feel better about ourselves. This “helper’s high” can be a wonderful side benefit of serving, but if this is our *primary* motivation, our service is ultimately a selfish act. The recipients of our service can generally discern these impure motives.

The key difference between being a servant and choosing to serve is Lordship. As Christians, the Lordship issue was settled at our conversion. We already *are* servants. The question now is, “are we good servants or bad servants?—Christ-centered bond-slaves of Jesus or self-centered bond-slaves of Jesus?” May the Holy Spirit empower us to follow the example of Jesus, our Servant-King.



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