

The Servant Spirit

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In 1975 Earnest Gentile (received as a prophetic voice to the church) was asked to speak at a ministers conference. He was asked to pray and seek God about the end times church. Specifically, How was God going to bring about unity in the church and the great end time revival? The word he received from the Lord was entitled "The Servant (Deacon) Spirit".

More than twenty years latter we are still asking the same questions. How will God bring unity to the Body of Christ and when will the end time revival come? I am convinced that the answer has not changed. When we grasp the importance of servant ministry.

I. The example of Christ, the servant leader

Matthew 12:18 "Here is my servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will proclaim justice to the nations.

Matthew 20:26-28 Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave--the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Matthew 23:11 The greatest among you will be your servant.

Servant: diakonos, dee-ak'-on-os, probably from an obsolete diako (to run on errands; an attendant, i.e. (genitive) a waiter (at table or in other menial duties); specially a Christian teacher and pastor (technically a deacon or deaconess) :- deacon, minister, servant.

Slave: doulos, doo'-los, a slave (literal or figurative, involuntary or voluntary; frequently therefore in a qualified sense of subjection or subserviency) :- bond (-man), servant.

Mark 9:35 Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all."

II. The lack of servant ministry

2 Cor. 10:12 We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise.

Compare: sugkrino, soong-kree'-no; from Greek (sun) and Greek (krino); to judge of one thing in connection with another, i.e. combine (spiritual ideas with appropriate expressions) or collate (one person with another by way of contrast or resemblance.

1 Cor. 3:1-9 Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly--mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men? For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not mere men? What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe--as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he

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who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. 8The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. 9For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.

III. The gift of servant ministry is from God

1 Peter 4:10-11 Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. 11If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Ephes. 3:7 I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power.

Col. 1:25 I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness--

2 Cor. 2:17 Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, like men sent from God.

2 Cor. 3:4-5 Such confidence as this is ours through Christ before God. 5Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God.

2 Cor. 4:1 Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart.

Whoever wants to be
first must be last of all
and servant of all.

Mark 9:35

