

# **Christian Character – Servanthood**

## **Philippians 2**

Power. Glory. Success. Throughout human history these have captured the hearts of men and women. In the midst of a society which measures worth by position and wealth, it is no wonder that Christians have struggled to stand for the values of the kingdom of God – humility, self-denial, gentleness and love. In the eyes of the world these are often signs of weakness rather than strength. Yet in stark contrast to the values of our day, Jesus came not to be served but to serve. He calls us to follow in his steps.

1. What images come to mind when you hear the word servant?
2. Read Philippians 2. How is verse 1 an incentive to obey Paul's commands in verse 2?
3. How do Paul's commands in verses 3-4 go against our natural tendencies and against our society's norms?
4. How is Christ the supreme example of the humility and servanthood described in verses 3-4?
5. Considering Jesus' glory and majesty as God's equal, what did it cost him to be a servant (vs 6-8)?
6. To what extent is your life characterized by this attitude of Christ Jesus?
7. In verses 12-18, Paul exhorts the Philippians to live godly lives. In what way is he a model of servanthood for them?
8. How does Paul contrast Timothy with others (vs 20-21)?
9. If Timothy were alive today, how might his "genuine interest" in the church's welfare be manifested in practical ways?
10. How has Epaphroditus been a servant to Paul and the Philippians (vs 25-30)?
11. What one thing seems to keep you from serving more than you do – Time? Talent? Low Self-Esteem? Something else?

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