

Servolution 5

Where do you rank as a servant?

- 1) Others compliment me on my servant attitudes or actions.
- 2) I regularly use my gifts and skills to serve my family.
- 3) I regularly use my gifts and skills to serve my church.
- 4) Other people feel they can count on me when they need help.
- 5) I make it a habit to help those in distress.
- 6) When I see needy people or the homeless, it gets to me.
- 7) The needs of others are at least as important as my own.
- 8) Others compliment me on my sensitivity and love.
- 9) I typically help people, even when it costs me time, cancels my plans, risks embarrassment, costs money, or even when their appearance repulses me.
- 10) Friends say I am someone they can talk to about anything and that I'm always there when they need me.

Jesus taught us that in the church age, there would be mixture of unbelievers who profess to be believers and believers who are indeed the servants of the Lord.

THE WEEDS AND THE WHEAT: **Matthew 13:24-30** He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, **25** but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. **26** So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. **27** And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?' **28** He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' So the servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' **29** But he said, 'No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. **30** Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.' "

The disciples after hearing all these parables asked him to specifically explain the parable of the "weeds of the field."

Matthew 13:37-43 He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. **38** The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, **39** and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. **40** Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. **41** The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, **42** and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. **43** Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

Jesus said, you would know the difference between the weeds and the wheat, good and the evil, the saved and the unsaved by their fruit!

Matthew 7:18-20 A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. **19** Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. **20** Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.

Real People of God, will be Doers of Good

Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Colossians 1:10 "... walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God."

- 1) Do good by following the example of Jesus.

Acts 10:38 God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

Jesus made sure to point out to his disciples that the ones who believe in Him would do the same types of works that he did (John 14:12)... and even more he says.

That is why we are called Christians... Christ followers doing the good works of Christ!

- 2) Do good and don't let people let dead religion divert you.

Mark 3:1-6 Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there with a withered hand. **2** And they watched Jesus, to see whether he would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse him. **3** And he said to the man with the withered hand, "Come here." **4** And he said to them, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to kill?" But they were silent. **5** And he looked around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, and said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. **6** The Pharisees went out and immediately held counsel with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

- a) This is only place in scripture where it says explicitly that Jesus was angry.
- b) His anger riled against their obstinate and insensitivity to God's mercy and human suffering.

- 3) Do good because you are Sons of the Most High.

Luke 6:35 But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.

- a) How do you deal with people you don't like?
 - i) Do you keep the ledger even? Return evil for evil?

- ii) Do you give them the cold shoulder? Give them the silent treatment?
- iii) Do you bless them by doing good to them? Being kind to the ungrateful?

4) Do good by investing in your leaders.

Galatians 6:6-10 Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. **7** Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. **8** For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. **9** And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. **10** So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Believers should invest good things with those who invest in them!

Note: the sowing and reaping principle is very much at work here.

5) Do good and don't get tired of serving God's people.

2 Thessalonians 3:13 As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good.

a) Why does the Apostle Paul feel a need to say this over and over to the early church?

Because people will wear you out!

i) The genuine needs of people can be overwhelming.

ii) Additionally, the entitlement disorder existing in our generation can wear you out.

b) Let your motivation for doing good to be a God pleaser and not a man pleaser!

6) Do good and surprise the negative onlookers.

1 Thessalonians 5:15 See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone.

1 Peter 2:15-16 For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. **16** Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.

a) In our day people expect you to be a religious bigot!

b) Silence the mouths of those who accuse Christ followers.

7) Do good and get rich in good works.

1 Timothy 6:17-19 As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. **18** They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and

ready to share, **19** thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

8) Do good because sharing your life pleases God the Father.

Hebrews 13:16 Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Really the purpose of life for Believers is to please our Heavenly Father. Anything outside of that is wasteful and shameful.

Conclusion: Hebrews 10:24-25 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, **25** not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.