

KINGDOM. SUPPLEMENT 17

[SERVICE] SERVICE IN THE BIBLE

Discover and discuss. What does the Bible teach about service?

1. Why should Christians serve?

Read Matthew 20:25-28; Philippians 2:5-7; 1 Corinthians 9:19-23; 1 Peter 4:10-11; John 12:26.

Notes. To serve is the true measure of greatness in God's kingdom (Matthew 20:25-28). To serve is Christ like; it is following the example of Jesus Christ (Philippians 2:5-7). To serve is the only way to win people for Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 9:19-23). To serve is the way to glorify God (1 Peter 4:10-11). Finally, to serve will bring a reward (John 12:26).

2. Whom should Christians serve?

Read 1 Corinthians 4:1-2; Hebrews 6:10; Luke 16:13; Galatians 1:10; 2 Corinthians 4:5; Ephesians 6:5-8; Romans 14:13-18.

Notes. Christians should serve Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 4:1-2). Christians should serve other people (Hebrews 6:10). They serve Jesus Christ by serving people in accordance with Christ's instructions. Luke 16:13 teaches that it is impossible to serve two different masters at the same time. Christians serve people not according to what *they want*, but according to what *they need* (Galatians 1:10). Christians serve people not for their own sake, but for the sake of Jesus and his glory (2 Corinthians 4:5). Christians serve people in submission to the authority that is placed over them (Ephesians 6:5-8). Christians serve people not according to the letter of the law, but through the guidance and strength of the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:13-18).

3. In which areas should Christians serve?

Read Matthew 24:45-51; 2 Corinthians 8:1-4; 5:18-21; Acts 6:1-4; Luke 1:74-75; Matthew 25:14-30; 1 Peter 4:10-11.

Notes. Christians serve by giving food to people in their household in the proper time (Matthew 24:45-51). Christians serve by giving material things generously to needy Christians everywhere (2 Corinthians 8:1-4). Christians serve by proclaiming the gospel to non-Christians everywhere (2 Corinthians 5:18-21). Christians serve by teaching and building up Christians in the word of God (Acts 6:1-4). Christians serve the Lord spiritually by worshipping him without fear and in holiness and righteousness throughout their lifetime (Luke 1:74-75). Christians serve by putting to work the talents, that is, the abilities and opportunities, which Christ has entrusted to them and gain more such talents (Matthew 25:14-30). Christians serve by using whatever spiritual gifts they have received to build up the Church (1 Peter 4:10-11).

4. How do Christians become servants?

Read John 12:26; Romans 12:1; Mark 13:34; Luke 16:10-13; 1 Timothy 3:10; 2 Corinthians 11:23-28; Hebrews 6:10; 10:32-34; 2 Corinthians 6:3-10; Acts 20:19.

Notes. A person becomes a servant by following Jesus Christ as his disciple (Luke 9:23; John 12:26). A person becomes a servant by making himself available to the Lord (Romans 12:1). A person becomes a servant by determining which task Jesus Christ has assigned to him (Mark 13:34). A person becomes a servant when he fulfills his entrusted task faithfully (Luke 16:10-13). A person should only become a servant in a leadership responsibility (a task, office, position) when he has first been tested in his ordinary life and in doing smaller assignments (1 Timothy 3:10). A person is a servant when he works hard for Christ, is willing to suffer for Christ, and faces the daily pressure of caring for the Church (2 Corinthians 11:23-28). A person is a servant when he helps Christians who suffer and stand at their side (Hebrews 6:10; 10:32-34). A person is a servant when he perseveres in all kinds of hardships (2 Corinthians 6:3-10). A person is a servant when he is humble in success (Acts 20:19).