

December 17, 2022

What Does it Mean to be a Servant of Christ?

[Romans 1:1-7](#)

1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, 2 which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, 3 the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh 4 and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit^{of} of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, 5 through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, 6 including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, 7 To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The passage refers to Paul as a servant of Christ. What does "be a servant" really mean?

I am reminded of the Basic Needs Feeding Ministry which takes place three afternoons a week at my home church. This ministry is aimed at helping the least, the lost, and the lowly within the community.

The program has met opposition by some for they feel providing basic needs will simply enable these individuals. Did Jesus ask for credentials and a resume when feeding the five thousand? Jesus demands our personal involvement in caring for others' needs. (Isaiah 58:7)

Jesus said he did not come to be served, but to serve. (Mark 10:45) In today's world we often measure greatness by high personal achievement. However, in Christ's kingdom, service is the way to get ahead.

This Advent season why not take a new step in a new direction and look for ways that you can minister to the needs of others instead of seeking to have your own needs met?

Mother Teresa once said, "We've just forgotten that we belong to each other." When we begin to connect ourselves together, we begin to develop kinship. And once we develop kinship, we can begin to bridge the gap between a person *needing* basic needs and *having* basic needs.

Decide that you will build that bridge and encourage the needy and unchurched to cross over to the other side and experience God's mercy, love, and compassion that are the marks of his kingdom. (Matthew 25: 35-36; 40)

Prayer: Heavenly father, open my eyes and heart to the needs of those around me. Use me as your servant, Lord, to show them your mercy, love, and compassion. In Jesus name, Amen.

Lynn Ritter
First United Methodist Church
Elkins, WV
jimlynnritter@gmail.com
Local Church Staff Liaison
Greenbrier/Wesleyan District Lead Team Member & Mission Team Chair