

God's Kind of Servant

Irma Warr

I. Introduction.

A. The definition of serving.

1. Service is anything done for the benefit of another.
2. Serviceable means lasting and wearing well in use.
3. There is no way of serving God apart from serving people.

B. Text: Matthew 25:34-45.

II. The Christian definition of serving: whatever helps people to grow, to live and to solve problems.

A. This involves being a wellspring to weary travelers. (Isaiah 32:2)

B. Every talent and gift we have been given is for serving others. (1 Peter 4:10-11)

III. The disposition of a servant.

A. Willingness. (Exodus 35; 36:2)

B. Cheerfulness. (1 Peter 4:9; 1 Corinthians 9:7; Psalm 107:2)

C. Generousness. (2 Corinthians 8:5; Luke 17:10)

D. Unselfishness. (Philippians 2:3-4)

E. Humility. (1 Peter 5:5; Matthew 6:1; Acts 28:3; 2 Corinthians 4:5)

F. Flexibility.

G. Lovingness. (Galatians 5:13; 1 Corinthians 13)

IV. The distinctions of acceptable service.

A. Having a right motive.

1. A love for Christ.
2. To glorify Christ. (Galatians 1:10; Colossians 3:17; 2 Corinthians 4:7; Romans 12:1)

B. Quality service. (Mark 10:41)

C. Whole-hearted service. (Colossians 3:23-24; 2 Chronicles 25:2; 31:21)

D. Faithful service.

V. The difficulties in serving.

A. Performing acts of service without having a spirit of service.

B. Trying to serve in our own strength. (Hebrews 10:24)

C. Having the wrong motive.

D. Selfishness.

E. Pride.

F. Business.

G. Laziness.

H. A lack of love.

VI. Conclusion.

Application questions:

1. What are some ways that you regularly serve? What are some ways that your service can grow in its disposition?

2. What are some wrong motives for service? How can we encourage service out of the right motives? Explain.

3. Why is it impossible to serve well in our own strength? How do we overcome this?
