

Week 24
161/204

Transforming Daily
“... *but to serve* ...”
Mark 10:45

I often challenge believers to keep in mind that if all believers seek to be served, than no one will be served, but if every believer seeks to serve, than all believers will be served and served many times. Service is by far one of the most difficult disciplines to develop. The reason service is so hard to practice (without ulterior motives) is because it requires humility and willful submission. One must humble himself/herself in order to serve.

Ephesians chapter five is often used in marriage counseling with the idea of humility, submission, and service in mind. As a matter of context, before Paul gives the illustration of husband and wife for Christ and the church, he admonishes the church to exercise humility, submission, and service one to another. Unfortunately 5:22 is sometimes misunderstood to be a demeaning posture for women. That is why I instruct potential marriage partners to understand the full context of verses 5:22-33, by telling them that the wife is to submit (respect) to her husband, and the husband is to love the wife, but a husband can't love his wife without submitting (respecting) to her needs, and a wife won't submit (respect) to her husband without loving him. The process is a cycle, a single, balanced unit.

Jesus Christ is the best example of this union. He humbled Himself to meet the needs of sinners, required by the Father, through love. This was the ultimate act of humility, submission, service, love, not to mention, sacrifice. Jesus didn't have to do this, He willingly accepted the assignment. Our response is to receive His kind gift of eternal life, then with gratitude and through humility, submission, and love serve Him and others in His name.

Do you share in this union with Jesus Christ? Are the characteristics of humility, submission and service noticeable in your Christian witness? Is there any other reason for your humility and submission but to serve?