

Servant Redemptive

Biblical

Romans 12:7 diakonia (διακονία, 1248), “the office and work of a diakonos” (see minister, A, No. 1), “service, ministry

Server – A Spirit of Servanthood

The Greek word used here for “ministry” is diakonia. This is one of the Greek words used for “**servant**”. Some would limit the use of this word to only that ministry or service done by a **deacon** (which is derived from diakonia). ‘This is not an unreasonable interpretation.

However, this word is used in Scripture in a much wider application. Diakonia almost always in the New Testament in connection with the service of, and in, the Christian Church.

It is used in the following ways in the New Testament:

1. **service in general**, meaning all works of service and ministry done for the good of the Body of Christ (Eph 4:12).
2. **As the apostolic ministry** and the ministering of the Word (Acts 6:4;20:24).
3. **In the office of deacon** and its areas of service and ministry (Acts 6:1-3).

Some are especially gifted in the area of service. They are fulfilled when they are serving the needs of others in practical ways.

But there is an important lesson to be learned here, regardless of your giftings. The above scriptures imply -and many others specifically state - that *everything we do and are as Christians, and especially leaders, is to be marked by a spirit of servanthood.*

No matter what your God-given gifts are, or the extent of the ministry God has given you, you are not greater than the Lord of the Church. (John 15:20). Everything we do is in service to Him, and to His Church.

If you desire to be conformed into His image -He Who gave His life for us - your life and ministry should be characterized by a Christ-like, servant’s heart(Matt 20:20-28).

Characteristics

Sees external needs of comfort and food and is quick to meet those needs
Is a team player. Is relatively free from the desire to build his own kingdom



Is very practical. Is committed to the present moment to meet present needs
Has difficulty saying “no” to competing demands
Usually overcommitted in scheduling
Finds it hard to accept excellence in his work, to affirm himself, or to receive affirmation from others
Tends to find something to apologize for when serving others
Has few enemies
Sees the best in others
Has high loyalty to family Is not easily angered except when someone hurts a friend or family member
Tends to save stuff, but not in a particularly organized manner
Is totally trustworthy and reliable
Works very hard, often to the harm of their physical health
Can make excuses to justify others’ bad behavior
Can become enablers, especially to immature people. Wise servants learn to empower, not to enable others
Tends to spoil children, meeting too many needs too often
An immature servant may be in denial regarding their children’s shortcomings
Attracts dishonor, especially in the home
Tends to be the one who is talked down to and has jokes made about them
A servant seems to allow this to happen
Is competitive in areas that are considered safe to the servant, such as games or children’s sports teams
Otherwise dedicated to seeing others succeed more than himself.
Has purity of motive
Is straight-forward, honest and can be trusted
Prefers not to be visible. Does not desire the spotlight
Can be in a sinful environment without getting personally defiled (example: Esther).
Tends to be exploited by others
Tends to have a victim mentality
Responds well to truth
Can struggle with issues of shame
May believe they deserve to be the victim
Wrestles with self-worth
Tends to believe that “I’m not worthy”
Others are more worthy
Desires to empower others to achieve their best
Greatest fulfillment comes in knowing he enables somebody else to do their work.
Is drawn to pray for leadership and make them successful
Sees needs and meets them – often external or environmental needs
Very few enemies – considered to be a safe person
Inability to accept excellence in work, to affirm self, or receive affirmation from others
Extends honor to others
Sees potential/best in others
Has a fierce anger that seldom occurs but usually revolves around loyalty
Save stuff though not always organized about it



If immature can become an enabler – mature servant learns to empower
Attracts dishonor, especially in home, and usually does not resist
Integrity/honesty/simplicity
Obedience comes easily
Tends toward victimization/exploitation by others
Difficulty saying no – has a strong desire to please others
Sees needs and meets them – often external or environmental needs
Honor to others
Sees potential/best in others
Has a fierce anger that seldom occurs but usually revolves around loyalty
Obedience comes easily
Tends toward victimization/exploitation by others
Difficulty saying no – has a strong desire to please others

Major Weaknesses

Battle for self-worth.
Does not see his innate value and does not believe God's truth about himself or his call.
Worry/anxiety
Takes on other people's problems and worries about the problem. "
Enabling.
Does a task instead of teaching others to do it and releasing it to them
Rather do something themselves

Biblical example of Servant –

Esther, Phoebe - Romans 16:1-2, Stephen - Acts 6:1-15; 7:1-60, Philip (the deacon) - John 1:43-45; 6:5-7; 12:21-22; 14:8; Acts 6:5; 8:5-40, Onesimus - Philemon; Colossians 4:9, Peter's Mother-in-law - Matthew 8:14-15, Jacob - Genesis 25-30, Joseph in the N.T., Barnabas, Simeon from the 12 sons of Jacob, Timothy, and Ananias (not the one struck down but the one who ministered to Saul in Damascus)

Discernment

