

Out of our **secure identity** in Christ and by **the leading of the Holy Spirit**, we are able to **humble ourselves to serve and obey God**, and **in the same way serve other people**.

Jesus is our Example, *Phil 2:5-8*.

Out of His secure identity of equality with God, v6, He laid aside His glory, v7, and **took upon Himself the form of a servant**, v7. As a man He humbled Himself, to the death of the Cross, v8.

When two of His disciples were trying to promote themselves, *Mat20:20-23*, *Mk 10:35-40*, and the ten others became upset with this, Jesus told them that greatness in **God's Kingdom comes through serving**. He said, "Even as **I did not come to be served, but to serve** and give My life a ransom for many," *Mat 20:28*.

On one occasion, His disciples were arguing about which one was the greatest among them. Jesus said, "He that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he that is chief, as he that does serve, and I am among you as One who serves", *Lk 22:24-27*.

Another time He washed the disciples feet, *Jn 13:3-17*, and said, "**If I, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet**," meaning that we are to take the place of a servant to others.

His disciples asked Him, "Who is greatest in the Kingdom of heaven?" *Mat 18:1*. In v4 Jesus said, "**Whosoever humbles himself as this little child, the same is greatest** in the Kingdom of heaven."

We are humbling ourselves to God and His Word and serving others when we:

- a. **forgive others** that hurt us, *Mk 11:25,26*, *Mat 6:14,15*.
- b. **release them from our judgment**, *Jam 4:11,12*, *Lk 6:37*, *Mat 7:1*.
- c. **hand the problem over to God** to resolve, *1Pet 5:7*, *Ps 55:22*.
- d. **pray wholeheartedly for them**, *Lk 6:27,28*, *Mat 5:44*, as in *Col 1:1-9* or *Ac 26:18* as appropriate.

More than this, it also **invalidates the jurisdiction of satan**, so that He is unable to influence the people of God.

More than this, it guarantees that **God's grace is continually poured out on all of us**, *1Pet 5:5,6*.

More than this, out of our mercy and forgiveness towards others, our acts of **servanthood are powerful**. The Samaritan had compassion and mercy on his enemy, the Jew, lying half dead on the Jericho road, *Lk 10:33*. Out of his mercy flowed his powerful acts of love, *Lk 10:34,35*.

C. Rewards of Humility.

Jesus is our Example, *Phil 2:9-11*.

"Wherefore God has highly exalted Him and given Him a Name above every other name.

Humility and servanthood guarantees promotion, increase, and enlargement of our identity and ministry in Christ.

Jesus said, "Whoever exalts himself will be brought low, but **whoever humbles himself will be exalted**," *Lk 18:14*. His parable was of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector.

As we humble ourselves under the mighty Hand of God we are standing in line for the Lord to exalt us, *1Pet 5:6*.