Sound Doctrine: 1st Timothy, 2nd Timothy & Titus

Rather Serve

1st Timothy 6:1-2, John 13:1-17

Veterans Day, "Thank you for your service"

"Be our guest! Be our guest! Put our service to the test"

Restaurant reviews: food, atmosphere, service

For excellent service, tip! (Not FOR service, because of it)

What would you rather do?

- Eat at a restaurant or be the waiter?
- Swim in the pool or clean the pool?
- Wear nice shoes or shine shoes?

Called the plumber for a service appointment

Struggling for a week with big tools and small tools, I saw what he used and I'll buy it next time - medium tool

I got to the point where I'd rather it be someone else's problem

[Pray] 6:1

Servants/bondservants - **doulos**

- *Slave, slave by choice*
  [family, good master], ear piercing
- *Paul calls himself a doulos to Jesus*

Slaves and masters

- *Slave vs. servant*
- *Master bedroom … now "Main bedroom"*
- **"Lord"** master of the house, land, etc.
- Jesus is **"Lord of lords"**
- **Slavery a large cultural & economic issue**

Biblical Israel & Slavery

- Indentured servitude, year of Jubilee, 50, land goes back
- **Always a way out**, a way back
- **Usury not permitted**
- *"Slavery not commanded, but regulated" DG*

Historical Slavery

- Bible, Egyptians, **conquering lands taking slaves**
- Feudal system
- 1800s slavery (based on race)
- **Modern slavery**, sweatshops, border crossings, cartels, "trafficking"
  - AIM, Montana Task Force 833-406-STOP
  - real need for ministry
- **Debt, a type of slavery**
  - **Pro 22:7** – The rich rules over the poor, And the **borrower [is] servant** to the lender.

Under the yoke

Still slaves, not freedmen

Roman Empire

- **50-60m slaves, ⅓ population in large cities**
- On the **decline**
- Bought and sold, **not a legal person** Roman law, “Living tools”
- **Slaves/tutors to raise kids**
- **Slavery was not a permanent** life course anymore
- **Becoming closer to employee than property**
- Government started regulating the release as so many were being freed
- 50% free before age 30
- **Slaves could even own their own slaves**
- Sometimes preferable because of security
- Granted social status of owner
- **Was a means of eventually affording Roman citizenship**

Mat 11:28-30 – "Come to Me, all [you] who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **"For My yoke [is] easy and My burden is light."**

Jesus invites you to serve Him!

Better Master. Better life. Better tasks.

Priests wore linen…
light fabric, not a sweaty service

Service might be physically tough,
Always spiritually refreshing…if you’re serving God by His Spirit

Worthy of all honor

Valuing by the fixed price

Their masters put a price on them.
Their lives. Their service.

The Bible teaches slaves
to put a price on their master!
An eternal price!

How do we value people?

- **Looks** - proven attractive people get their way more -
- **Personality**
- **Ability** - we like athletes more who are really good, musicians, etc.
- **Wealth**
- **Our benefit** - what they can do for us. *Rich person calls, you pick up the phone because you want some. Poor person, delete their voicemail!*

That’s the flesh

Luk 14:12-14 – Then He also said to him who invited Him, "When you give a dinner or a supper, do not ask your friends, your brothers, your relatives, nor rich neighbors, lest they also invite you back, and you be repaid. "But when you give a feast, invite [the] poor, [the] maimed, [the] lame, [the] blind. **"And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just."**

David, Saul ● We are to value someone based on their **heavenly value** ● We want them **to know their worth** ● **To receive** what we've received ● **To go** where we're going **<u>And so we serve!</u>**	*"...the fundamental conception of ministry within the church [people, not building], is that of service rendered in obedience to authority. … Ministers then in every case [pulpit, pew]…are servants of Christ…. Therefore they are servants to none other [than Jesus], [by which] they become servants of all…"* G. Campbell Morgan "The Ministry of the Word" pp28

Mat 20:25-28 – But Jesus called them to [Himself] and said, "You know that the **rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them**, and those who are great exercise authority over them. "**Yet it shall not be so among you**; but whoever desires to become great among you, **let him be your servant.** "And whoever desires to be first among you, **let him be your slave**-- "just as **the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve**, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Read John 13:1-17 (homework)? *Jesus washing disciples' feet* **Why did Jesus serve on Earth?** Because He knew where he was from and where he was going - The Father gave him everything. He didn't need to take from anyone. **Do we know our heavenly standing?** When we do, we'll serve on earth. **A Christian's life is a life of … <u>service</u>!** You'll serve God and serving God serves others	**Church is only a <u>service</u> if those there are serving!** **Church reviews**: **food** (teaching), **atmosphere** (of worship), **service** (were you served?) **NY** - making sure everyone was greeted, attended to. Regularly good emails about how welcome people felt **Visiting some churches**, Some friendly, some not, some ignored! Some pastors greeted, others ran away **Pastor Chuck's example** always at the door
World - seeks to be served, self-interest **Phl 2:4** – Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. **A Christian** - seeks to serve, others interest	***Bothered…*** ● *Hear of Christians in church* ● *No one helps them* ● *No one returns their calls* ● *Some can be needy - but disciple them to depend on Jesus!* ● ***Nobody available - why? Other's needs are in their own interest!***

Rom 12:10-11 – [Be] kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor **giving preference [go before, lead] to one another**; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, **serving the Lord;**

1Jo 4:19 – We love [serve] Him because **He first** loved [served] us.

We serve out of love
because we're loved by our Lord

Truly, you're not actually serving others
You're serving God first
He serves others through you.

The only way to truly serve
Is to do what the master asks
With His Spirit's Power
A servant doing something his master never asked for is serving himself.
SO IMPORTANT WE ASK GOD!

Psa 84:10b –.... I would rather be a **doorkeeper** in the house of my God Than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

It's not Peter at the pearly gates!
It's you, this side of heaven
Revealing Jesus. Inviting them to meet him.

Name of God? Jesus
His doctrine - the Bible

*"Misconduct in the church would not only hurt the church…and **limit the spread of the gospel**. … To be spoken well of by outsiders is essential to the gospel. … **We are all subservient to someone. Servitude is at the heart of the Christian calling**."* PTW pp. 147, 149

When we don't serve, the world sees

(we can kind of tell when someone is really doing something for themselves…)

They know what's expected of us,
why don't we?

- Many folks won't come to church
- Won't come to Jesus
- Because a Christian has burned them, taken from them - in life, in business

We talk a good game on love & service
But how much do we really do for each other? And with what heart?

True love is shown in service

volunteering, military, parents and children

Service reveals agape love by serving without expecting it in return

Jhn 13:35 – "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

When we don't serve Jesus

We don't give anyone else reason to

When they see you serve,
they see a God who serves

False gods demand service
The real God came to serve

The choice is up to us who we'll serve **Jos 24:14-15** – "Now therefore, fear the LORD, **serve Him in sincerity and in truth**, **and put away the gods which your fathers served** on the other side of the River and in Egypt. *(What does your family serve? Our city? Our country? Our culture?)*	**Serve the LORD! "**And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, **choose** for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that [were] on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

:2 Not just believing slaves… **Believing masters** • Much of the Ephesian church was likely slaves • But also masters • Slave an elder, master under authority **A healthy church is full of servants** • Where servants can be masters • And masters can be servants	**Gal 3:28** – There is neither Jew nor Greek, **there is neither slave nor free,** there is neither male nor female; **for you are all one in Christ Jesus**. • **Different physical freedom and worth** • **Same spiritual freedom and worth** **Freed spiritually to serve spiritually**
Spiritual freedom does not get out off the hook for earthly duties! **Saved? Still a servant.** **Saved to serve.**	(DG inspired) • *He's not a believer, he's too harsh, I won't obey, I'm spiritually better* • *He's a believer, I should be treated better, less work - no right to order me, we're equal!* • *Rather work harder, serve more*

Interesting…NOT commanded: • **Masters**, free your slaves • **Slaves**, revolt from your masters	• *Slave revolts would make Christianity look subversive* • *Harsh masters would equally harm the faith*

Masters wouldn't want Christianity "I'll lose my slaves" **Slaves** wouldn't want Christianity "My master is harsh, why would I want his God?" **Christianity would seen as violent for <u>earthly</u> gain - in keeping slaves, or freeing them** *"not out of a general approval of the institution of slavery, but so that **God would be glorified**" DG*	**Freedom flows from the gospel** **Spiritual first, then physical** **Everything else is downstream** *Prohibition failed, hearts weren't changed!*
1Co 7:21-24 – Were you called [while] a slave? Do not be concerned about it; but if you can be made free, rather use [it]. For he who is called in the Lord [while] a slave is the Lord's freedman. Likewise he who is called [while] free is Christ's slave. **You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men**. Brethren, let each one remain with God in that [state] in which he was called. **If you can be free, that's a good thing**	**Heavenly freedom is real freedom!** *Even in:* *Bad job, tough marriage, strict parents, poverty, prison* **Onesimus, Philemon, Paul**
Honor your master: serve <u>them</u> **Physical service has spiritual value** It can bring spiritual freedom! **Same master? New Lord.** You can serve God through your boss! **Col 3:22-24** – Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. **And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men**, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; **for you serve the Lord Christ**.	• *Truly learn the most when I'm served* *Not just showing me, serving me* • *Truly learn the most, by serving* *"School of Moses"* ***Best discipleship school?*** ***Serving alongside each other!*** *You truly only learn by doing* **Serving man stinks! Get burned out!** **The more you serve Jesus,** **the more you'll want to serve.** *"Better to give [serve] than to receive [be served]"*

Modern? Employee, employer

My old bosses

- Randy, Priyanka, Trey
- God's favor in all of them!
- A few folks not so fun to work with
- And I'm sure I wasn't fun to a few folks

Many opportunities to share
Door most opened by my being a good employee

- Doing a good job
- Working when others weren't
- Being thorough, caring for the quality
- Caring that I did what they wanted, that they were pleased with my performance

Your work is a witness
Your service is a witness

If you want to preach from the pulpit
Learn to vacuum the carpet

"More Holy Spirit to do the dishes…"

Your worth is

- Not where you work
- What job you have
- How much money you make
- How your boss values you

Companies will dump you at the drop of a hat

Your worth is how God sees you
Your payday from His wallet

Teach and exhort these things

This was not another easy lesson.
It was right at the heart of the people.
<u>The economic divide.</u>

1Co 9:19 – For though I am free from all [men], I have made myself a servant to all, **that I might win the more;**

<u>This is our witness of Jesus</u>
The God, The King, The Master
Who is also The Servant

Our biggest witness comes through service

- We serve now
- We rest in heaven

Truly, there is rest in spiritual service now

Serving The Kingdom for the Kingdom's Sake
Serving God For God's Interests!

Churchianity is a spectator sport
You come watch others perform

Christianity is living to serve
You serve and are served

You serve God and know Him better in it
As you serve Him, He serves you <u>more</u>

You get more than you give out

So Christian…
Don't seek to be served…
Rather, Serve!