

## **Are Your Servable**

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Jesus' Lesson on Serving in John 13:1-17 was simple: disciples serve one another. When Jesus came to Peter, Peter at first refused to permit Jesus to serve Him. Jesus told him that if he did not permit this, he could not be part of His work. Peter then consented. Jesus' example is not just about serving, it is also about being servable. Are you servable?

Many of us do not like being on the receiving end of being served. We dislike asking for help and so we don't (consider Galatians 6:2,10). We do not ask for prayers in difficult times as we are told to do in James 5:14-16. Perhaps we prefer to rely on outsiders for help, something Paul warned about in 1 Corinthians 6:4. Sometimes this creates a feeling of being an outsider in church society (Romans 12:16).

Why are we like this? There might be many reasons we are not easily served. Perhaps we do not know what brethren can do. We have forgotten that we each have something to offer (1 Peter 4:10), but we are uncertain what others can do for us. In that same vein, perhaps we don't know brethren well enough to ask. That is a problem, since we are supposed to behave as members of a family (Eph. 2:19). Another consideration is a misplaced humility. We might think that our request might take focus from those in need. Yet this too is not an appropriate mindset. Sadly, for many, the issue is pride. We are too proud to ask, fearing others will see our weakness. Finally, for some of us it is experience that has given us bitterness and bad experience. We might say "I asked before and it did not work out", and we are not willing to be patient, forgive and try again (Colossians 3:13).

Consider how many problems come when we are not servable. First, there is an alienation to the brethren. Serving each other tightens our bond, and not being permitted to serve distances us; consider the issues in the church in Acts 6:1. Even more serious is the issue of creating stumbling blocks. Not being servable leads to pride, contempt or bitterness (Hebrews 12:14). It fails to obey the commandment of Christ just like Peter. It is also a stumbling block to your brethren, as you are not permitting them to serve God (Luke 17:1). You are setting the wrong example and preventing them from fulfilling their duty, a double stone of offense.

As members of the household of God, we must be willing to be served. Admittedly, it is not easy to be "servable". The Apostle Peter demonstrates this. But it is of vital importance we seek to be servable without taking advantage of the benevolence of other saints.