



PRINCIPLES IN SERVING GOD

TASTE, LOVE, AIM

WHO IS THE SERVANT?

- A seventeen year old youth asked the priest to permit him to start teaching in Sunday school classes.
- The priest asked him which level he would want to teach.
His answer was that he was ready for any level.
- This request showed good intentions to serve the Lord and the church,

Do you agree / disagree and why?

- This request reflects insufficient understanding of the service of the Lord and the necessary preparations which accompany it.

PRIESTHOOD

- A sixteen years old youth told the priest that he wants to join the priesthood in a few years and that he is longing for this to happen. The priest asked him the reason for this demand. The youth said he loves the church hymns, the service of the Holy Mass and all other services in the church.
- **Do you agree / disagree and why?**
- Again this request showed good intentions, far better than youth's longing for bad relationships and misbehavior, but on the other hand, it lacked the knowledge that priesthood is not the service inside the church with the congregation or the other church services. In fact it is taking the responsibility of these souls in front of God and this is not an easy matter.

WHO IS THE SERVANT?

- One of the servants in the church told the priest that he wants to extend his service in church. Instead of being deacon, he wants to be an arch-deacon and instead of being a teacher he wants to be the administrator of Sunday School Service.
- These big responsibilities in the church are the center of his demands in life.
- As to his personal eternity and the necessities of his family and their eternity, that was not an important issue. What can I say?

WHO IS THE SERVANT?

- The service of the Lord is not about positions but about taking the last place.
- It is similar, to the Lord's service when he washed the Disciples' feet. It is because of these examples which come across many priests in their service, and because I know of many who have such thoughts, that I present to you some of the principles in the service, praying to the Lord that it becomes a source of blessing to many and to me also.

WHO IS THE TRUE SERVANT?

The true servant of the Lord is the person who:

1. First **Tasted** the life with Christ and loved it.
2. Second His service is generated from his **Love to Christ**, to his brethren, to his family and his heavenly reward.
3. Third **Aim** is to attract souls to Christ for their salvation without ignoring the daily life that these souls live.

THE TRUE SERVANT I- **TASTE** AND LOVE IT

- The true servant is the person who **tasted** the life with Christ and loved it.

THE TRUE SERVANT I- **TASTE** AND LOVE IT

- St. Peter the Apostle was able to convert 3000 souls in one sermon after completing his faith, receiving the power of the Holy Spirit and experiencing the true life with Jesus Christ (Acts2).
- What about me, what can I do?

THE TRUE SERVANT I- **TASTE** AND LOVE IT

- St. Paul the Apostle, after experiencing life with Christ, said “But indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ.”(Philippians 3:8).
- What about me, do I feel this way?

THE TRUE SERVANT I- **TASTE** AND LOVE IT

- The true servant is he whose service generates from his love to Christ, his brethren, his family and his heavenly reward

THE TRUE SERVANT

2. SERVE OUT OF LOVE

- The servant loves the Lord Jesus Christ and feels that He has given him a special commandment to take care of his brethren. This is clear when the Lord said to Simon Peter
- “Simon...do you love Me? Tend My Sheep.” Therefore the servant looks at every person who needs service as being recommended by the Lord personally.
- The servant of the Lord, looks at the poor, the bare, the miserable and he who lives in sin, as a valuable soul and the Lord asked him to care for him.

THE TRUE SERVANT

2. SERVE OUT OF LOVE

- Our lord Jesus Christ, who is our true example, demonstrated a service full of love and comparison.
- “and for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.” John 17:19
- St. John said in affection, “The elder, to the elect lady and her children, whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all those who have known the truth.” 2 John :1
- As to the love of the poor, we find Abba Abra’am Bishop of Fayoum. In the love of congregation we have Abba Boutros the last martyrs who died in place of his congregation and asked the soldier to kill him behind the prison so that his children do not see him.

THE TRUE SERVANT

2. SERVE OUT OF LOVE

- Other examples from this century are the deceased the Arch priest Bishoy Kamel who is a true example of the love of every soul and of building churches for the salvation of people.
- All those who served the Lord, through the ages, know well that the worker deserves his pay.
- They know that he who gives a cup of cold water will not lose his reward. They know that the Lord said, “Where I am, there My servant will be also.
- If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.” John 12:26.

THE TRUE SERVANT

2. SERVE OUT OF **LOVE**

- All these servants had their hearts longing to heaven and they served for the sake of building the heavenly kingdom for the others as well as for themselves.

THE TRUE SERVANT

2. SERVE OUT OF LOVE

And whatever you do, do it heartily,
as to the Lord and not to men

[Colossians 3:23](#)

THE TRUE SERVANT

3- **AIM** TO ATTRACT SOULS

- The true servant is he whose aim is to attract souls to Christ for their salvation without ignoring their daily life.

THE TRUE SERVANT

3- **AIM** TO ATTRACT SOULS

- What is the aim of the Church? The aim of the church is to attract the hearts of the people to Christ, to heaven, then the spirit of life will run in it.
- David the prophet says, “You who seek God, your hearts shall live”. The human being extends the eternal life from Christ, as the Lord said in his concluding prayer, “Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify you, as you have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as you have given Him and this is eternal life, that they may know. You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.” John 17:1-3.

THE TRUE SERVANT

3- **AIM** TO ATTRACT SOULS

- Serving the children is different from serving the Youth.
- Serving the elderly is different from serving the sick and needy.
- The servant's aim is to attract the soul to heaven without overlooking its position and its daily life. St. Paul says, "For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ," 2 Corinthians 11:2.
- He also says "Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though

THE TRUE SERVANT

3- **AIM** TO ATTRACT SOULS

- St. John the Baptist diverted the people and drew them towards Christ not himself.
- He said that one should grow and I should decrease.
- A true example of faithful servant is in drawing the souls towards Christ.

WHO IS THE TRUE SERVANT?

The true servant of the Lord is the person who:

- First **Tasted** the life with Christ and loved it.
- Second His service is generated from his **Love to Christ**, to his brethren, to his family and his heavenly reward.
- Third **Aim** is to attract souls to Christ for their salvation without ignoring the daily life that these souls live.

