

Serving: Helping, providing, or caring for someone.



The Christian life is a life of serving; serving God and serving others. Paul wrote in Galatians 5:13, that we are called to be free, but we are not to use our freedom to indulge the sinful nature, but to serve one another in love. In the context of serving others, we can look at serving as helping, providing or caring for them. Jesus set the example - He did not come to be served, but serve and give His life as a ransom for many (Mat. 20:28). Yet, too often people expect to be served rather than seeking to serve.

Marriage should be the first place where we see an attitude of serving; yet, many couples don't have any desire to serve each other. The wife of one couple we counseled would drive past the laundry, refusing to stop and pick up his clothes because, 'Why should I? He won't do anything for me.' I am glad Jesus didn't have that attitude toward us when He anguished in the Garden of Gethsemane over going to the cross. Jesus chose to go to the cross and die for us; how can we not serve our spouse in daily life?

Serving our spouse begins with developing a Christ-like attitude of humility and putting others first. I think of the story of Ron and Betty Wiseman (one of the first couples involved in marriage ministry in the 1970s). He demanded a lot from his wife and expected to be served. He literally was struck by lightning one day, and after the Lord dealt with him in the hospital, he promised that he would serve and care for his wife for the rest of his life. We met them many years later and Ron did exemplify a servant's heart, never getting something for himself without asking Betty if she would also like something. He sought to help, provide, and care for his wife in every way.

Does your marriage display the servant attitude that Christ modeled for us? Do you seek to serve your spouse? Or do you expect your spouse to serve you? Honestly examine your behavior and attitude and prayerfully seek the Lord as you consider your answer to these questions. How can you better serve your spouse? What can you do to be a blessing to him or her each and every day?

Helpful Resources: *Fortified Marriages Resource page:* www.fortifiedmarriages.com

The *Fortified Marriages Manual and Workbook* is a great tool to help couples grow in their marriage relationship. Additional information about serving your spouse can be found in the following articles:

100 Ways to Serve Your Spouse by Aaron and April Jacob - www.nurturingmarriage.org

How to serve your spouse in truth, love and grace by Amy Van Veen - focusonthefamily.ca