

SERVANTS REGARDLESS

Joe Testa, College & Young Adult Pastor
August 30, 2020



1. The Greek word for servant is “doulos,” and it means servant or slave.
2. Gotquestions.org further defines “doulos” like this: “one who is subservient to, and entirely at the disposal of, his master; a slave.”
3. Gotquestions.org says this about “doulos:” Throughout the New Testament, the word *bondservant*, *slave*, or *servant* is applied metaphorically to someone absolutely devoted to Jesus.
4. Philippians 2:7 “Emptied” = the Greek word “kenosis”
5. What does it mean that Jesus emptied Himself?
 - It is better to think of Christ’s “emptying” of Himself as a laying aside of the *privileges* that were His in heaven.
 - Rather than stay on His throne in heaven, Jesus “made himself nothing” (as the NIV translates Philippians 2:7). When He came to earth, “he gave up his divine privileges” (NLT).
 - He veiled His glory, and He chose to occupy the position of a slave.
6. “The kenosis was a self-renunciation, not an emptying Himself of deity. Nor was it an exchange of deity for humanity. Jesus never ceased to be God during any part of His earthly ministry. He did set aside His heavenly glory. He also voluntarily refrained from using His divinity to make His way easier. During His earthly ministry, Christ completely submitted Himself to the will of the Father (John 5:19).
As part of the kenosis, Jesus sometimes operated within the limitations of humanity. God does not get tired or thirsty, but Jesus did (John 4:6; 19:28). God knows all things, but it seems that, at least once, Jesus voluntarily surrendered the use of His omniscience (Matthew 24:36). Other times, Jesus’ omniscience was on full display.” ~Stephen J. Wellum

Application:

- For husbands: How can you out-serve everyone else in your home? “If you want to know who the leader of your family is, just look at who serves the most. And whoever that person is, that’s the leader of the family.” ~Tony Evans
- Leader at NH or in the workplace: Develop a mindset of serving those you lead. A great way to start your day is by asking God to open your eyes to ways you can serve those under your management. It will transform your workplace.
- Everyone: Look for tangible ways to serve your neighbors and this community.

