

Serving Others

"Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He was come from God, and went to God..." John 13:3

If I knew that I was about to die, I would want to spend my remaining moments preparing to die. In the Upper Room Discourse of John 13-16, the Savior knew that He had but hours to live. How did He spend His time? Primarily the way He lived the whole of His life, serving others. As He prepares His disciples for His death, He begins by washing their feet.

Jesus' servanthood was not from a lack of knowing who He is. Fully aware of the facts, Jesus chose to be a servant. The security of knowing who He is gave Him the ability to serve; humility comes from security for those with a biblical worldview.

The only way we can gain security is the way Jesus did – by knowing that we are the product of God's grace and that we will go to God. Only the secure can be humble. If we are not servants, probably it is because we have not grasped who we are and why we are here.

The Meaning and Importance of Election

"For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth; It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger. As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated." Romans 9:11-13

Election is an essential component in everyone's life. It is a manifestation of the will. Without election, a person has no will. Everyone wants choice/selection/election. You find it in your interest in your future, wanting to decide for yourself what you will do with your life. Most of you prefer selecting your own spouse rather than arranged marriages, for example.

God's election is essential, for it destroys pride and any sense of earning or deserving a relationship with God. Without election you cannot have biblical grace. The doctrine of imputation assumes you have no intrinsic worth. Your will is an essential part of you, but no man exercises his will in favor of God.

People reject the biblical teaching on election because it destroys man's sense of being in control. Man is addicted to autonomy and autonomy necessitates control. People wish to earn their way to heaven by works, or believe that all people go to heaven, which is an eternal form of egalitarianism.

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Only God is in Control. If He does not elect, He cannot exercise His will. He becomes some mechanical Force. Like you, God has favorites, and will continue having them forever.

¹ Cf. Ephesians 2:1-2