

## DISCOVERING YOUR CALL

Our lives are subject to the demands and so-called "emergencies" of others. When we make these pressures our first priority, our lives quickly become fragmented and we experience chaos and exhaustion. We end up providing little help to others. Your calling can help you say, "No" to distraction and "Yes" to true life-changing giving.

We would like for you to step out in faith which means taking a risk and write out on the space below what you believe your calling from God to be. What is your life dream? What would you love to do? What is your vision for God? If we could assure you that you could do anything your heart desires without experiencing any embarrassment, loss or failure, what would you do? Who would you be? What do you want to be able to say you have accomplished at the end of your life? It might be as humble as being a truly great mom or dad. It could be being the best at your profession. Whatever it is, make it specific (callings do change so you're not imprisoned to it). Consider Christ's calling in Luke 4:18-19 and Paul's in Romans 15:20.

My thoughts on the above questions:

I believe my calling is:

## Recovery From People Pleasing

1. Identify the misconceptions that are problem areas for you. Recognizing the lies that bind you is the first step.
2. Carefully study the scriptures listed in the Truth section concerning your problem area. Daily review these scriptures and pray through each issue.
3. Severe people pleasing, co-dependency, poor assertion or Messiah complexes do not come out of nowhere. Usually we have been deeply wounded and undervalued as precious creations of God. You must face your past and the unresolved hurts and disappointments that continue to bind you even to the present. A season of grief and eventual forgiveness is entirely appropriate and necessary if good stewardship, restoration, and recovery are to be achieved.
4. Join a support group dedicated to wholeness through faith in Christ. Try through your local church or Christian 12-Step groups. Perhaps you can use this material as a study guide.
5. Consider professional Christian counseling. Seeking out counseling is not a sign of weakness or defeat, rather it is a very strong statement of courage and good stewardship!
6. Continue to fine tune your calling. Remember that it will help you determine the "best" from merely the "good" endeavors in life.

# THE *Jesus* WHO DIDN'T PLEASE OTHERS

*When to say "YES and  
When to say "NO"  
for Sane Servanthood*

by

Kevin D. Downing, Ph.D.  
and  
Peter N. Robbins, Ph.D.



**CALL TODAY!**

Turning Point Counseling  
800-998-6329

[www.TurningPointCounseling.org](http://www.TurningPointCounseling.org)

## The JESUS Who Didn't Please Others

Jesus Christ was a tremendous disappointment to most everyone who knew and loved Him at one time or another. Consider the following:

**A SAVIOR** who never freed God's people from the oppressive Roman rule of His day.

**A CHOSEN ONE** who began to wipe out human hunger with five loaves of bread and two fish, but who quickly gave it up.

**A CHRIST** who could have physically healed everyone if he hadn't spent so much time with his friends in the desert.

**THE COMING KING** who was born in a filthy feeding trough in a barn and who had a name as common as Joe.

**THE LORD OF HEAVEN** and earth, yet who was crucified the most humiliating of deaths.

Jesus did not please everyone. Making people happy in the short term and avoiding conflict were not some of His attributes.

Jesus was strong. He knew His calling with razor sharp accuracy and was determined to fulfill it. Somehow Jesus could look beyond the misguided demands of people and see our eternal need.

Jesus served like no other. But it was in ways that people did not expect. As Christians, we too are called to serve. Consider the following misconceptions of servanthood that produce great pain in our lives and little to no genuine help to others.

## SEVEN MISCONCEPTIONS OF SERVANTHOOD GIVING

**1. THE LIE:** The depth of my servanthood is measured by how happy I make those around me.

**THE TRUTH:** Jesus did not make everyone around Him happy. In fact, He was eventually crucified by those whom He loved. When we live for Christ the Bible tells us that we will be persecuted--even by our loved ones at times. *See: Gal. 1:10; Ps. 55:12-14; Matt. 5:11-12, 16:21-23; John 15:20; Acts 5:41; Rom. 8:17; II Tim. 3:12*

**2. THE LIE:** To be a servant I must become something like a robot--brainless and uncreative. I must deny and do the opposite of everything I dream and desire.

**THE TRUTH:** Christ came that you might use all of your God-given gifts, including your mind and creativity. The more you become like Christ, the more your will and His will become one. You will desire God's will and He will be a cheerleader for you. *See: Psalms 20:4, 37:4, 103:5, 145:19, Rom. 8:5; Matt. 22:37*

**3. THE LIE:** When I "die to the flesh," I die as a person. This is punishment for my sinful nature.

**THE TRUTH:** Dying to the flesh or the self does not mean to kill our bodies or our personalities--that's suicide! Dying to the flesh is the choice to not act out of hurt or revenge. Rather than punishment, it is the ability to become all we can possibly be and give to others. *See: Matt. 16:24-26; Rom. 6:13, 12:1-2; I Pet. 2:24, 4:10; II Tim. 1:6-7; John 10:10*

**4. THE LIE:** Servanthood involves no risk. When you've truly given all to Christ, He takes all the responsibility for every decision.

**THE TRUTH:** Christ has us grapple with the gray areas of life that we might grow close to Him and expand our wisdom and knowledge. *See: James 1:2-4; I Peter 5:7; Phil. 2:12-13*

**5. THE LIE:** There is one Perfect path for each person's call to servanthood.

**THE TRUTH:** Perfectionism has no place in Godly living. It reduces us to crazy mechanical type living, far from a relationship with God. We learn the fine points of our calling, partly through trial and error. *See: Phil. 3:12; Rom. 8:28; Eph. 2:8-10; James 1:12*

**6. THE LIE:** True Servanthood has no place for rest or recreation. There is no time to be built up or educated when other people are hurting and need your help.

**THE TRUTH:** To fulfill God's calling in your life you must be a good steward of your temple (i.e. your body). That means rest, fellowship, solitude, education--and yes, while others are hurting. Jesus often left the needy crowds to be with his friends, and his Father in quiet places free of distraction and business. *See: Matt. 11:28-29; Mk. 6:31; Heb. 4:3, 10-11*

**7. THE LIE:** Servanthood guarantees that others will acknowledge and appreciate my efforts and, therefore, take care of my needs in return.

**THE TRUTH:** Servanthood is not giving in order to get. You are responsible for your own life and personal needs. Great fulfillment is waiting for those who serve others, yet there are times to stop giving so you may be restored. This restoration is not selfishness--rather it is good stewardship. Giving with a plan means that you take care of the life God has given you so that you may go the distance. *See: II Tim. 4:7-8; Lk. 5:16; John 11:54; I Pet. 5:10*