

# Service NOT Ministry

Theologians and the church system translate the NT Greek word *diakonos* (δίακονος) as ‘ministry’ when it actually means ‘service’. This is disappointing, because it has created the clergy/laity divide and produced the caste of professional Christians.

However, everywhere we read ‘ministry’ in the NT we should think ‘service’, ‘serve’ or ‘serving’, because that’s what the word really means. This will give us the correct attitude so we realise we’re all meant to be in the service of our King. We all serve each other – that’s one of our main roles in the Kingdom.

It’s important that we get away from all religious jargon (church-speak) and talk in terms that everyone understands – especially those we connect with in our local community. That’s why we should say “serve” instead of “minister”. There will be occasions when our church training will cause us to slip back into our old jargon, but we must be determined not to let ourselves slide back there again.

As an example: When helping someone in spiritual need we’ll be tempted to say something like, “Can I minister to you?” What we should say instead is something like, “May I attend to your spiritual needs?” See the difference? It may seem awkward at first, but it won’t put them off if they don’t want anything to do with religion.

I use the term ‘spiritual’ when I talk to those outside of our Kingdom family, because it puts them at ease. I never use the word ‘Christian’ or ‘church’ for the same reason, especially because I don’t belong there any more. These days, PC (Political Correctness) has programmed people to accept the spirituality of others, even though they may be antagonistic towards Christianity. That’s why they don’t put up ‘walls’ when I say, “I’m a spiritual person” – which I definitely am.

So, we’re meant to serve others. We attend to their needs, whatever they may be. In that way we are ‘attending servants’, rather than “ministering saints”. We’re ‘attendants’<sup>1</sup>, if you like. That puts us in the same humble category as ‘carpark attendant’ or ‘cloakroom attendant’.

There’s no chance of pride getting in the way when we call ourselves a servant or an attendant and we say that we serve others or attend to their needs. That’s very different to the *superbia*<sup>2</sup> of being revered as a denominational minister, or receiving special treatment because you’re a pastor, or being able to say, “I have a ministry.”

For all of us to serve properly, we don’t need a theological degree or a Bible College diploma. We can all do it when the Spirit brings changes to our heart and mind so we’re amenable to do it freely and lovingly.

However, to serve properly, our King wants it done his way, in alignment with him. Below is his message to us on that.

**(NOTE: I have replaced ‘ministry’ with ‘serving’ in the message to be accurate with the way the Kingdom works.)**

*“Intimacy with me is the precursor for [serving]. The very foundation for everything else in life.*

*Out of your relationship with me, [serving] flows. Unless you are overflowing, you will depend on your own strength and knowledge to reach others.*

*I have a better way. The way of my Spirit. The way of grace—to be so close to me that you only do and say what I show you.*

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1 – DEFINITION: One who attends another to perform a service. [www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/attendant](http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/attendant)

2 – DEFINITION: Pride, haughtiness, arrogance, snobbishness; conceit, vanity; rudeness, discourtesy. [en.wiktionary.org/wiki/superbia](http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/superbia)

*Plunge yourself into the ocean of my love. Saturate yourself in my presence, and you will drip with my love everywhere you go.*

*When you take up your cross and sacrifice your selfishness for greater intimacy, I move through you mightily.*

*When you make our relationship the priority, [serving] will be the natural response. You cannot love me and not love others.*

*You cannot be one with me and not feel my compassion for the people around you. Don't let your fears, attitudes, or opinions get in the way of our holy partnership.*

*Simply submerge your will into the fires of divine passion, and I will purify all that you do.”<sup>3</sup>*

**If we don't serve others the King's way, it becomes dead works.** That's because it only comes from our natural being.

**IMPORTANT:** Dead works are not fruitful in the Kingdom, even if they are effective in the natural.

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(Readers will need to look up for themselves any scriptures alluded to in this document)