

B. Discussion

Our study hinges, then, on the understanding of Romans 12 as a key passage in which the position and practice of the servant may be summarized.

1. Character of the servant position.

a. Privilege (Romans 12:1, etc)...the joy of giving himself to the Master. The reasonable service of the servant is that he will put himself into the hands of the master and find his proper use in that role. It is a privilege to be so attached to the Lord and that is why, I think, the Apostle uses the term "beseech." His attachment to the Master is what will deliver him from the confinements and conformity of this world and what is practices that is contrary to the will of God. The privilege part of the servant position is not always clearly seen...but in a general sense you have to think of how many people would like to have a prominent role in national movements for example but have no claim to such and therefore are merely onlookers. It is the privilege of the Lord's servants to stand in the retainer of God. That we do not make more of the privilege is an unhappy comment on our own aims and activities.

b. Humility (Romans 12:3 ff) It is a position to remember to think correctly of oneself since the only reason we have to be is the grace and will of the Lord. Hence we should think soberly and correctly of ourselves, neither puffing self up nor denying the work that God has done for us. The servant, as the Lord has said in John 15, is not greater than his Lord and he must remember and display this apparent fact. But the position of servant is one of humility..humility that will lead to a richer fulfillment of the Lord's will and the growth of the servant position.

c. Service (Romans 12:4, ff) Every member of the body has the unique function of serving the