Healthy Church Series

Topic: Graduating from servanthood to friendship

Text: John 15:14-15, James 2:23, Gal. 4:1-2

**Introduction:**

According to our texts, it’s obvious that the Lord wants us to graduate from the level of being a servant to that of being a friend. Even though we are all God’s children, if we don’t grow to maturity, we might be relating to the Lord in servanthood. But God’s intention is for us to mature to friendship. Book of James 2:23 testifies how God called Abraham His friend. It’s no mistake he’s called God’s friend. Today, it is through that friendship that the whole world is blessed. Imagine if one friendship with God could become such a great thing; how much better will it be if we all are God’s friends. Ironically, we cannot be God’s friend without being His servant because it all starts from being a great servant.

**Servanthood:**

A servant is defined as someone who performs duties for others, especially a person employed in a house on domestic duties or as a personal attendant. It’s not surprising that one of the keys attributes of a servant is obedience. Abraham demonstrated one of the greatest evidence of faith by his obedience to God’s instruction without question. His faith, that we all commend today was made manifest by his obedience. Without complete obedience to God’s word and specific instructions from the holy spirit, we fall short of our responsibility as God’s servant.

**Attributes of a Servant:**

* Obeys fully, the master’s commands (out of fear)
* Does not question the master’s orders
* Live to please the master
* May not understand the vision of the master or reasons behind master’s actions
* Always seeking the wellbeing of the master
* Master may not necessarily respect a servant

**Friendship:**

A friend is defined as a person whom one knows and with whom once has a bond of mutual affection. Our Lord Jesus promoted his disciples from servants to friends so that they can share in his divine nature. Only when we become friends with the Lord that we know His secrets, plans and vision for us and other people (Ps 103:7). We should also know that, just like it happened to the disciples, it’s only the Lord that can promote us to friendship. No matter how hard we work in His vineyard, he alone will take us to the next level of relationship with himself.

**Attributes of a friend:**

* Friends respect and obey each other out of love – Ex 32:13-14
* Friends are mutual partners
* Friends share secrets – Gen 18: 17-18
* Friends look out for each other
* Friends defend each other
* Friends understand and support each other’s vision

**Conclusion:**

We have discussed different levels of relationship with God, from being his servant to being a friend. While it’s only God that can declare us His friend, we should strive to be faithful servants and he will do it in no time. Also, because friendship with the Lord is achievable, let us all desire it in our prayers and deeds. I pray God will count us worthy to be His friends.