

April 5, 1994

THE Lowedown

Recently, I had the opportunity to teach the youth group at our church the concept of maintaining fellowship with God. I love to teach on this subject because every time I do, I remind myself of the simple truths that I need to practice everyday in order to consistently walk with God. ¶ I was teaching on the concept of being filled with the Spirit. One of the prerequisites for being controlled by God's Spirit

is that we need to be willing to completely surrender ourselves to the Lordship of Christ.

Lately, I've been pondering what it means to completely surrender myself to the Lordship of Christ.

I believe that to completely surrender ourselves to Christ's Lordship really means that we give up all personal rights and submit to Christ's will. The best Scriptural example I can think of is found in the second chapter of Philippians where Paul says:

⁵ Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

A quick survey of this passage reveals several points. First of all, Jesus was God! He enjoyed all the rights and privileges of deity. Yet, he voluntarily relinquished all of his rights in order to be submissive to the Father's higher purpose.

Secondly, Christ took the form of a bond-servant. This word is actually translated as slave in many places in the New Testament. In other words, Christ voluntarily became a slave to the will of the Father.

I once heard a group of people debate on whether God views us as sons or as slaves. I think Scripture indicates that God indeed views us as sons. However, as I've studied the lives of men and women in Biblical times and throughout the ages who have been privileged to be used mightily by God, I find that they all have had at least one thing in common: they all considered themselves to be bond-servants of Christ, relinquishing all their rights in favor of complete and total surrender to God's will in their lives. So while it's true that Christ's



death and resurrection have freed us from the power of sin, and while it's true that God has adopted us as His sons, it appears that those that God uses have all willingly become bond-servants of Christ. That is why Peter admonishes us in 1 Peter 2:16 to "Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bondslaves of God."

Thirdly, Christ was obedient to death. Recently, I read a story about a Christian who had been in prison for nine years in Iran because of

his faith in Jesus Christ. On December 3, 1993, he was invited to appear before an Iranian court of trial. There he gave a powerful testimony of his faith in Christ, claiming that he was willing to live or die for Christ's sake. On January 12, 1994 he was executed for his faith.

Most of us will never be asked to die as martyrs for the sake of the gospel. But we do have the privilege of living holy, righteous and fruitful lives for God. Christ himself promised in John 15 that when we're completely dependent upon him, we'll bear much fruit.

My desire is to be a fruitful servant of our Lord. It seems clear to me that if we want to be used mightily by God, then we need to voluntarily give up our rights, becoming bond-servants who are humbly obedient to the will of God. This is the attitude that I want to adopt. I urge you also to adopt this attitude, becoming a fruitful witness for our Lord.

Humbly serving Christ,