

QUALITIES OF A CHRISTIAN SERVANT: CONSTANT AWARENESS OF ONE'S WEAKNESS

A servant will not be able to sympathize with the weak and outcast if he does not first live with the constant awareness of his own weakness, his own inadequacy. For the moment a servant begins to feel certain of himself, and the conviction of his personal superiority and power grows within him, a dangerous rift forms between him and those he serves. The children begin to feel the formation of a deep gulf separating them from the lofty heights of their servant. The result is either despair at the impossibility of ever reaching his eminence or the inclination to deify him and surround his head with a halo of sanctity. In either case, God is not glorified, of whom it was said, "He was crucified in weakness" (2 Cor 13:4).

It is good for a servant always to remember his sins and not to forget them with the excuse that they have been forgiven. He will then refuse to scoff at the sins of the children he serves, regardless of their number or severity, because the good servant does not rely on anything except grace. And he always puts himself in the place of the weak, lest he be found unworthy before God. The good servant must furthermore appear to his children as a weak human being in need of God's help and grace, for it is only through weakness that God reveals His power: "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness" (2 Cor 12:9).

When the children clearly perceive the natural and weak state of their servant, they will ascribe all the success of the service, all the power of the preaching, and all other achievements directly to God Himself. And thus, all the honor of the service will go to its only true source: "We have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us" (2 Cor 4:7).

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