

Study Notes - Ministry

New Testament words involving the idea of Ministry; i.e. SERVICE.

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- 1. Doulos – slave.** The word came to mean 'one who gives himself up to the will of another. 1 Cor. 7:33; Rom. 6:17, 20. Applied to Christians, Rom. 6: 16-18.
- 2. Oiketes – house-servant.** This illustrates a facet of the believer's relationship with the Father. See Luk.16:13; Rom. 14:4.
- 3. Misthios – hired servant.** Never directly applied to the believer, but suggests the figure of his reward in heaven, since 'misthos' is the word for 'hire' or 'reward'. Matt. 5:46; 5:12.
- 4. Pais. – Literally 'child', but also used of servants.** Matt.8: 6, 13. It is applied to the Lord Jesus as the ideal servant of God. Matt.12: 18.
- 5. Huperetes. – 'Under-rower'.** This word was used to describe a subordinate, acting under the authority of another. Luk.4: 20; John 7:32; Acts 13:5. Paul uses it of himself and his fellow servants 1st Cor.4: 1. The term itself is not directly applied to Christians, but the principle is - 1st Peter 5:5; Heb. 5:9.
- 6. Leitourgos - originally, 'one who discharges public office at his own expense'.**
The word later came to mean, simply, a 'public servant', whether paid or unpaid. For instance, it is used of the Lord Jesus, Heb.8: 2; Angels, Heb.1: 7; Paul, Rom. 15: 15-15; Epaphroditus, Phil.2:25; and of human authorities, Rom.12: 6.
- 7. Poimaino – 'to act as a shepherd'.** Used of the Lord in Matt.2: 6. Of Elders, in acts 20:28. 1st Peter 5:2, etc. It relates to the work of tending the flock.
- 8. Diakonos – 'servant, attendant, deacon'.** The word originally described 'one who runs errands', but has come to be used of 'to serve', or 'to minister'. In the New Testament it is used extensively of:
A specified ministry – that – i.e., the Deacons. 1st Tim.3: 8-10,12; Phil.1: 1.
The ministry of Angels – Matt.4: 11; Mark 1:13; Heb.1:14 etc.
Domestic service – Matt.8: 15; 25:44.
The ministry of Hospitality – Acts 6:2; Heb.6: `10.
The ministry of Benevolence – Rom.15: 12; Acts 11:29; 12:25.
The ministry of the Word - Acts 6:2,4. Compare 2nd Cor. 3: 7-9.
Discipleship generally – Luke 22:26-27.

HENCE:

The Christian is seen as '*diakonos*' in relation to his work. '*Doulos*' in relation to his Master. '*Huperetes*' in relation to his superior. '*Leitourgos*' in relation to public service. (Vine). **Every Christian is therefore a 'minister' or 'servant'.**