

## Introduction

- (image: silhouettes: tennis and waiter)
- Its not about serving at tennis or serving at tables
  - though there is obviously a connection!!
  - serving at tables is obvious...
  - serving at tennis is about giving the other person the ball... though at 138 miles an hour or whatever Roddick and Federer managed this afternoon is perhaps not very servant hearted!!
- Though even serving at tennis is about giving the other person the ball!

## Who are we?

- "If you have..." is a question of identity
  - who are we?
  - united with Christ, knowing his life, knowing the Spirit within us, seeing the beginnings of new life (tenderness, compassion) growing within us
- In other words: Servants of the King
  - amplify on how we came to be that
  - amplify on what we owe to Christ, therefore
  - amplify on who he is, king of the universe

## How then should we live?

- If we are **Servants of the King**, how then should we live?
  - "then" (v.2), and he goes on to begin to unpack some principles
- Is it **behaviour** or **attitude** that Paul is concerned about here?
  - motivation, heart attitude, mindset... not merely the external trappings of behaviour
  - for Paul, those will follow - but they are not enough on their own!
  - look at his language: v.2, **like-minded, love, spirit, purpose**
  - or in v.3: **ambition, conceit, humility, consider**
  - these are all words of the heart and mind, not first and foremost of actions
- God first, his call, the people he has placed in our path, his purposes:
  - in other words **Jesus answered: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'**" (Luke 10:27)

## How do we respond?

- Examine ourselves:
  - as we enter this week...
  - as we reflect on each day or each activity...
  - why did I do that? For attention? For others to think well of me? For me to think well of myself? To achieve some ambition? To have some power or influence? To get our own way? To let off steam at other's expense?
  - and as we identify those areas where our attitude has fallen short of God's best, we need to (a) **repent, asking God's forgiveness**, (b) **ask his help to change that attitude**, and (c) **sort out any immediate repercussions with others**
- We may choose to discipline ourselves, choosing to do things as acts of service so that we grow in servant heartedness... (clean the toilets?!)
- **but guard against secretly looking over our shoulders hoping that others see us cleaning the loos, or spending time with that difficult person, or whatever it is...**
- **Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus...**
  - look to him, what did he do, ask him for help, prayer...
  - **how then do we enter this week...? as Servants of the King!**