

***The Church's Call to Self-Denying Love***  
*Jesus's teaching on how to love another – Part 1 of 4*  
Matthew 17:24-18:5

I. Introduction: An example of a servant-leader in history

The broader context of this text in Matthew: teaching the church how to love one another

II. 7:24-27 – Paying the temple tax: *Self-denying love will lead us to limit our personal freedom*

*the sons are free* (v. 26)

Compulsory giving vs. Cheerful giving (2 Corinthians 9:6-15)

*not to give offense* (v. 27)

We are free ... to love others

Take care how you live before others, especially when it comes to money

Pay your taxes (Romans 13:1-7)

Let your love for others exceed your love for money and your love for your freedom and rights.

III. 8:1-5 – The greatest in the kingdom of heaven: *Self-denying love redirects ambition and directs us to humility*

*unless you turn and become like children* (v. 3)

a child's low rank in society  
children lack self-importance  
children are dependent  
children readily accept gifts

Have you received the free gift of eternal life in Christ Jesus?

*Whoever humbles himself like this child* (v. 4)

Humility: What it is and what it is not

*Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me* (v. 5)

How do we receive "little people?" (children, needy, other Christians)

IV. Conclusion: A call to living an "out-of-this-world" life