

A true disciple...practices service as a discipline

Hebrews 9:14 (ESV) how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

Deuteronomy 13:4 (ESV) You shall walk after the Lord your God and fear him and keep his commandments and obey his voice, and you shall serve him and hold fast to him.

1 Samuel 12:24 (ESV) Only fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you.

Psalms 100:2 (ESV) Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!

Isaiah 6:6-8 (ESV) Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷ And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for." ⁸ And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me."

Philippians 2:3 (ESV) Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

Galatians 5:13 (ESV) For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

Mark 12:28-31 (ESV) And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?" ²⁹ Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.' ³⁰ And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' ³¹ The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

1 Peter 4:10 (ESV) As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:

Teaching Objectives:

- Every Christian is expected to serve and every Christian is gifted to serve
- Our service is motivated by obedience, gratitude, gladness, by our forgiveness (rather than our guilt), by humility and by love.
- Serving is often hard work.

DISCUSSION:

1. What does the term “servant” bring to mind? Describe the feelings you have about being a servant of Christ and His kingdom. Be honest!
2. What does it mean to “serve the Lord with gladness” (Psa 100:2)?
3. What great things has God done for you? Be specific.
4. Read Isa 6:6-8. What was Isaiah’s response to God? Why? How are worship and service related?
5. Sometimes we can get frustrated when we are serving but other brothers and sisters aren’t. Is this a valid or invalid response? What is the source of these feelings of resentment?
6. Charles Spurgeon said in a sermon in 1867, “The child of God works not for life, but from life; he does not work to be saved, he works because he is saved.” Describe in your own words what he is saying.
7. What can we learn about humble service from these passages: Mark 12:28-31, John 13:12-16, Phil 2:3?
8. Why is it so easy for us to serve people for the wrong reasons? If you aren’t too embarrassed, share a time when you served for the wrong reasons.
9. What promise does God make concerning our service to Him (1 Cor 15:58, Heb 6:10)? Does this mean we will always see the fruit of our labors?
10. You might serve someone as an act of love. You might also serve someone as you are practicing the consistent discipline of service to remove covetousness, arrogance, envy, and resentment. Is one better than the other? Can you serve even when you “don’t feel like it?”
11. What unique gifts do you think *you* bring to the kingdom (Rom 12:4-8)? What should you do if the work to be done doesn’t meet your unique gifting?
12. Some people serve to get attention and are quite obvious about it (*#facebookposts*). What are some more subtle ways we can serve to get attention? Besides attention, what other things are people sometimes after when they serve?

“When serving God seems like a burden, remembering the great things he has done for you vaporizes the burden.”

–Donald Whitney.