

The welcome verse for this week is Ephesians 2:10: “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”



Practicing Service

Matthew 5:16; Philippians 2:1-11; 1 Peter 4:8-11

The Bottom Line: Serving others helps us to see people how God sees them and produces the attitude of Christ in us.

Introduction:

Jesus is Savior. Jesus is Lord. Jesus is also our teacher.

There are a few really intimate moments described in scripture between Jesus and his disciples. On their last night together, Jesus taught the Disciples their greatest lesson with a towel on his side.

“For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you” (rf. John 13:15).

In the discipline of service, there is blessing for both the servant and the served.

Tension:

“In some ways we would prefer to hear Jesus’ call to deny father and mother, houses and land for the sake of the gospel than his word to wash feet.” – Richard Foster

Most people prefer to be the one being served, not the one serving. This has been the crux of humanity even since Jesus’ day.

Even in our serving, there is often an underlying motive of our needs, our agenda, and our desires being served in return. When this doesn’t happen, we are left feeling as though our serving is pointless.

Truth:

Most Christian believers love the idea of service but their service is more self-righteous than Christlike.

We must learn the “mind of Christ” through the discipline of service (cf. Philippians 2:1-7).

Serving others helps us to see people how God sees them and produces the attitude of Christ in us.

**“Be a servant of servants, and condescend to do the lowest offices
to the lowest of mankind.”
- William Law**

It is true that some will have the gift of serving, but all are called to learn the discipline of service.

If someone is to take on the discipline of service, he/she must decide to make himself a voluntary slave to God. They must surrender their agenda, rights, and even their schedule/itinerary.

You cannot be hurt or “taken advantage of” when you have chosen to be stepped on. This is the difference between choosing to serve and choosing to be a servant.

Service to God and others is much more than preaching.

Application & Conclusion:

When we take on the discipline of service, we become people who steward God’s grace and shine a light for the gospel (1 Peter 4:10; Matthew 5:16).

Your Practice This Week – Serve a believer, an unbeliever, and a stranger this week with no expectation of return.

Next Steps:

- Commit to the weekly practice given by Pastor Matt.
- Read *The Great Omission* by Dallas Willard.
- Pray for the direction and invitations of the Holy Spirit to become evident.

Discussion questions for group this week:

- 1. What does this teach me about God?**
- 2. What does this teach me about me?**
- 3. How do I apply this to my life?**
- 4. If I could ask a question about this it would be....**