

**WE ARE WIRED TO SERVE.***What does serving God mean to you?*

- Serving God means to be open and willing to allow God to use me to fulfill his mission and glorify His name.
- Smiling genuinely.
- Giving of time, money, worship, and possessions.
- Being a tither and dedicated member of my local church.
- To serve my friends and my enemies in the name of Jesus.
- Meeting the spiritual and physical needs of others.
- To be AVAILABLE to serve God.
- While working at your job, do it to the glory of God.
- Using the gifts that God has given you and touching lives through it.
- FORGIVE.
- Being willing to sacrifice and put myself aside so that God can do what only He can do.
- Living a life of integrity before God.
- Being able to serve God not only when things are good but also when things are bad.

1 Peter 4:7-11

The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. ⁸ Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹ Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: ¹¹ whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

The Rationale of Serving...

- Our thoughts and actions affect our prayer relationship with God – 4:7
 - We all need to both give and receive love – 4:8
 - Show hospitality to one another without grumbling – 4:9
 - Every one of your skills and talents is a gift from God. So exercise your gifts for others' benefit, God's glory, and your joy – 4:10-11
- ⇒ **Speaking** gifts – 1 Peter 4:11a
- ⇒ **Serving** gifts – 1 Peter 4:11b

Mark 10:45

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

2 Timothy 4:6-7

For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

Philippians 2:17

Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.

Malachi 3:18

Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.

Jesus on serving

1) Serving should be motivated by grace.

1 Peter 2:16

Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.

2) Serving makes us more like Jesus.

Mark 10:45

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve...

3) Serving reflects the Gospel.

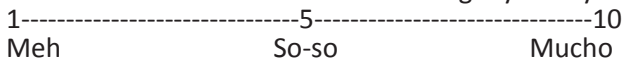
4) Serving is normal for Christ-followers.

5) Serving creates fertile ground in our hearts for joy.

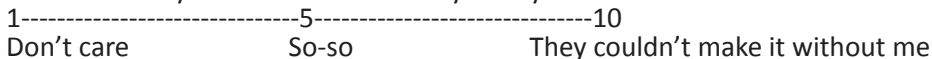
I. Family

Next Steps to serve your family

- How intentional am I about serving my family?



- What is my servant meter with my family?



- Why do we struggle with selfishness and self-absorption? Truth: because we are sinners.

- You're never less like Jesus when you're selfish and never more like Jesus when you're **selfless**.

- “We can measure our servant’s heart by how we respond when others treat us like servants. How do you react when you’re taken for granted, bossed around, or treated as an inferior?” – Rick Warren

- Serving your family may open them to God.
- Serve your spouse and watch how it builds your marriage.
- If I can, I will. If I can’t, I can’t.
- Fix something.
- Clean something.
- Say something.
- Write something.

II. Church

Richard Foster: “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. Radical self-denial gives the feel of adventure. If we forsake all, we even have the chance of glorious martyrdom. But in service we are banished to the mundane, the ordinary, the trivial.”¹

Next Steps of serving your church

- Reject the false promise of Christian Consumerism (We all struggle with this). What is Christian Consumerism? The Church is a cruise ship to satisfy my preferences or a battleship to serve in for a Greater Cause.
- If you’re physically able, save the closest parking spots for guests and the elderly.
- Adopt a “Where am I needed on the wall?” mentality.
- Believe that your service is a pleasing sacrifice to God.
- If I spot it, I got it. (Avoids the “It’s not my gift excuse.”)
- Outdo one another in serving one another: *Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor* (Romans 12:10).
- View times where you feel unappreciated as opportunities of learning to be like Jesus.

Serving questions²

- 1) Is your church stronger because of you?
- 2) Do you do a servant’s work with a servant’s heart?
- 3) Are you a consistent worker, not a convenience worker?
- 4) Will you resolve never to retire from serving in the church?
- 5) Are you serving faithfully in your church?

Recommended reading

John 13:1-17

Romans 12:3-13

Acts 20:35

¹ Richard Foster, *Celebration of Discipline* (San Francisco, CA: Harper and Row, 1978), 110. In Donald S. Whitney, *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life* (Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 1991, 1991), 110.

² Donald S. Whitney, *Spiritual Disciplines Within the Church: Participating Fully in the Body of Christ* (Chicago: Moody, 1996), 112-115.