

How to Serve Jesus Christ

Mark 13:34 To every man he gave a work...

Mark 13:34-36

It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. 35. "Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back--whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. 36. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping.

Luke 19:13 And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.

Matthew 9:36

36. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. 38. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

2 Corinthians 5:15

15. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

Romans 15:1

We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves.

I Corinthians 12:7-11

7. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 8. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, 9. to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, 10. to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. 11. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines. 12. The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ.

What is Service?

Service is living for God instead of for yourself.

In another place Jesus said, "Occupy (complete your task, get busy) till I come." - Luke 19:13

SERVICE

Perhaps we should clarify the concept of service. Today one cannot assume that everyone understands or accepts the responsibility of service. During the Civil War it was common, and accepted to pay someone to do your duty for you. You could send another in your stead. That is not a biblical concept.

We live in an age of “Narcissism.” – that is, self-love, self-coddling, self-interest, self-preservation. The pampered person believes the world exists for him, to serve him and make him comfortable. He is the center of his world. Any intrusion on that self-isolation is looked on as an intrusion to personal rights and privileges. The “Me” generation has been around since Adam and Eve. Yet today we have evolved into a self-serving, self-indulgent, hedonistic society as is readily depicted in our advertising media, from McDonald’s “You deserve a break today” to Sesame Street’s little jingle, “The most important person in the whole wide world is you, and you hardly even know you.”

We need to understand the cultural world we live in of which we are a part. We are the me generation. This world tries to squeeze us into its mold, ever mocking spiritual values and those who are so extreme as to insist that there are eternal values. Romans 12:1-1 Paul writes to hedonistic Rome where Christians were being molded by pagan society and urges, “Don’t let the world squeeze you into its mold, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

“Service” and “servanthood” are foreign words to the modern man. Service means to live for the benefit and blessing of others rather than yourself.

2 Corinthians 5:15, Paul describes this life-style expectation. “And *that* he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.” Someone simplistically illustrated how to live a happy Christian life with the anacronym – **JOY**. Jesus and Others and You. What a wonderful way to spell joy. It means JESUS FIRST, others second, and self last. That is an exact reversal to today’s non-christian society. We often hear self first, others principally my family and friends second, and Jesus if we have time left over.

SLAVE

Paul used the word “doulos” or “captive slave” to describe his allegiance to Jesus Christ. He did his bidding before his own. His life was owned by Jesus Christ. He was a debtor to Jesus Christ, not to his own whims and fancies.

The N.T. concept of Christianity is discipleship, and discipleship was the personal discipline of serving Jesus Christ. Jesus illustrated this example-following discipleship when he gave them the example of foot washing. That was the slave’s job, not the master’s job. Jesus took a towel and basin and washed his disciples feet and commanded them to do the same to one another. John 13:15 “*For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.*”

FIRST PLACE LOVE

Jesus was adamant about first-place love. It is everywhere in the gospels and it oozes from his message to the seven churches of Revelation.

“First-place-love” is demonstrated, not stated. It is not talked about. It is done. It is not bragged about, it is demonstrated regularly. It is never lip-service. Show me how you live your life and I will show you what you really love. It is self-sacrificing love. It is love on the altar laid down and surrendered fully. It is a lay-down-your-life kind of love, not a warm fuzzy.

If any man love father and mother, son or daughter, (family or job) more than me he is not worthy of me.

How then does a true Christian find happiness in serving Jesus?

I. First Step: Receive Jesus as Savior and Lord

You cannot serve Jesus Christ as an outsider.

“Do not call me lord, lord, and do not the things that I say.”

This is the work of God - to believe on him who sent me.

II. Second Step: Total Surrender your life to him.

(ie) Chicken and the pig. Let's give farmer brown a breakfast. I will give the eggs, you provide the bacon. Not so, said the pig. For you that is a commitment. For me that is total surrender.

- Take up your cross and follow (pursue).
- He who saves his life will lose it. Lose life will save it.

III. Third Step: Roll up your sleeves and get involved serving him.

- Refuses to stand around.
- Looks for a work to do.
- Invests himself in the kingdom.
- Sees the need(s) and steps in.

Do the least of these... cup of water... shall not lose his reward.

Many can't even lift a finger to get a cup of water.

It's not my job!

- Christian discipleship is not a spectator sport.
- do the work of 90%
- Others watch and applaud.
- What significant effort are you giving Jesus each week? Sweat for Jesus!

PAIN OF SERVICE

What is so painful about serving the Lord, being an elder, usher, greeter, teacher, window washer, sweeper, flower planter, grass mower, toilet bowl cleaner, pencil sharpener, paper puncher, paper cutter-folder, etc. ?

What is the pain?

Frankly, I don't get it. There is not pain to it, just pleasure of serving Jesus. But there is sacrifice - sacrifice, lay down your time and effort for Jesus, instead of self.

We have some fantastic laborers in this church. The very best are faithful helpers. Ones called alongside to be helpers. You can call on them and they will be there and don't have to be told every move to make. What about you?

In a few weeks a nominating committee will begin searching for capable and willing servants of Jesus Christ to serve as elders, deacons, deaconesses, trustees, treasurer, counters, ushers, greeters, teachers, Sunday school teachers, children's church workers, nursery workers, committee helpers.

(ie) Chicken Bread - Not I ! I will !

I want to address ...

- College Students
- Retired People
- Father & Mothers
- Singles
- Men!

(ie) Jobs for Jesus