

“I Love My Church”

Learning to Care for One Another!

Part 5

“The Practice!”

—Serve One Another—

“God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.” 1 Peter 4:10

A. Born again to serve...

1. God created me to serve.

“For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.”
Ephesians 2:10

2. God equips me to serve.

“For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.” *Philippians 2:13*

3. God uniquely designs work for me through my spiritual gifts...speaking, serving, encouraging, giving, leading, mercy/kindness.

“In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.” *Romans 12:6-8*

4. God fulfills me when I serve!

“But I will rejoice even if I lose my life, pouring it out like a liquid offering to God, just like your faithful service is an offering to God. And I want all of you to share that joy.”
Philippians 2:17

B. Serving looks different for each person...

1. Serving, in the Greek, is described in two ways. One, “to wait on tables,” or most often, “ministry.” It refers to any act of service done in genuine love for the building up of the community. Two, “helping” as in helping or aiding in love within the community. The goal is to energize the church and free the church to reach out. The service gifts are more in the background so that other more public gifts are free to be used in their intended way.

2. Serving is my unique way of contributing.

“There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord.” *1 Corinthians 12:5*

3. Serving overflows with thanksgiving to God.

“Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.” *2 Corinthians 9:13*

4. Serving is always to be for Christ!

“Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ.”
Colossians 3:24

C. Serving is not...

1. It is not about who gets the credit!

“This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.” *2 Corinthians 9:12*

2. It is not about seeing the results!

“But I will rejoice even if I lose my life, pouring it out like a liquid offering to God, just like your faithful service is an offering to God. And I want all of you to share that joy.”
Philippians 2:17

3. It is not about what I do!

“It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.”

1 Corinthians 12:11

4. It is not a burden!

“By God’s grace and mighty power, I have been given the privilege of serving him by spreading this Good News.”
Ephesians 3:7

Serving is a privilege!

D. So when you serve...

1. Serve enthusiastically!

“Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically.” *Romans 12:11*

2. Serve without complaining!

“Do everything without complaining and arguing,”
Philippians 2:14

3. Serve God not people!

“We serve God whether people honor us or despise us, whether they slander us or praise us.” *2 Corinthians 6:8a*

4. Serve, always remembering, we are a part of a bigger plan that God is working through us!

“For we are both God’s workers. And you are God’s field. You are God’s building.” *1 Corinthians 3:9*