

Service

Using one's gifts and abilities to serve God and others

Christian service flows from gratitude for grace received. Jesus revolutionized leadership by modeling servant-hood: "Whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant" (Matthew 20:26-27). The greatest in God's kingdom serve the lowliest—this inverts worldly hierarchies entirely.

Every believer is gifted for service. "As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God" (1 Peter 4:10). Spiritual gifts—teaching, helping, giving, mercy, leadership, and others—equip the body of Christ for mutual edification. No gift is insignificant; no member is dispensable.

Service to others is service to Christ. In the parable of the sheep and goats, Jesus identifies Himself with the hungry, thirsty, stranger, naked, sick, and imprisoned: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Matthew 25:40). This transforms menial tasks into sacred ministry—every cup of water given becomes an offering to Christ.

True service requires humility. Jesus girded Himself with a towel and washed His disciples' feet—the task of the lowest household servant. "If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet" (John 13:14). Position never exempts from service; rather, position increases the obligation to serve.

Christ Our Example

Jesus modeling servant leadership

Mark 10:45 — Came not to be ministered unto

For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

John 13:12-17 — Washing disciples' feet

So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you?

Philippians 2:5-8 — Took the form of a servant

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Matthew 20:26-28 — Whosoever will be great, serve

But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister;

Gifts for Service

Spiritual gifts equipping the church

1 Peter 4:10-11 — Minister gifts to one another

As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

Romans 12:6-8 — Gifts differing according to grace

Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 — Diversities of gifts, same Spirit

Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

Ephesians 4:11-12 — Gifts for equipping saints

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

Serving the Least

Ministry to those in need

Matthew 25:35-40 — Did it unto the least of these

For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

James 1:27 — Visit orphans and widows

Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

Galatians 6:10 — Do good unto all men

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

Proverbs 19:17 — He that hath pity on the poor

He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.

Attitude in Service

Heart posture for serving

Colossians 3:23-24 — Whatsoever ye do, do heartily

And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;

Galatians 5:13 — By love serve one another

For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

1 Corinthians 15:58 — Labour is not in vain

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Ephesians 6:7 — With good will doing service

With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: