

Serving Handout

Introduction

- Quotation: Ministering hearts are disciplined to labor, for they regularly move beyond their comfort zones, they put themselves in vulnerable spots, they make commitments which cost, they get tired for Christ's sake, they pay the price, they encounter rough seas. But their sails billow full of God's Spirit.
- God's service is costly. God asks for your life. God doesn't want servants who offer him their leftovers after their other commitments.
- Dietrich Bonhoeffer: When Christ calls a man, He bids him come and die.
- Christ's call may be washing feet in obscurity. The flesh rebels against that kind of service.
- Two of the deadliest sins, sloth and pride, loathe serving. That is why it must become a discipline.

Every Christian is expected to serve

- We should be motivated by obedience. Deuteronomy 13:4
- We should be motivated by gratitude. 1 Samuel 12:24
- We should be motivated by gladness. Psalms 100:2
- We should be motivated by forgiveness, not guilt. Isaiah 6:6-8.
- We should be motivated by humility. John 13:12-16
- We should be motivated by love. Galatians 5:13

Every Christian is gifted to serve

- Spiritual Gifts. 1 Cor 12:4,11. 1 Peter 4:10.
- The most significant gifts in the church's life in every era are ordinary natural abilities sanctified.
- In addition to the study of Scripture, the best way to discover and confirm which spiritual gift is yours is through serving.
- Serving is often hard work. Eph 4:12. Col 1:29.
- Whitney comments that service that costs nothing accomplishes nothing.
- Worship empowers serving, serving expresses worship. Godliness requires a discipline balance between the two.
- Are we willing to serve, to sacrifice, to get out of our comfort zone, to risk something in order to serve?
- Wanted: Gifted volunteers for difficult service in the local expression of the kingdom of God. Motivation to serve should be obedience to God, gratitude, gladness, forgiveness, humility, and love. Service will rarely be glorious. Temptation to quit service will sometimes be strong. Volunteers must be faithful in spite of long hours, little or no visible results, and possibly no recognition, except from God for all eternity.