HOLY SPIRIT IN RENEWAL OF THE CHURCH -

WHY DO WE SERVE?

ROMANS 12:4-8



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ROMANS 12:4-8

FOR JUST AS WE HAVE MANY MEMBERS IN ONE BODY AND ALL THE MEMBERS DO NOT HAVE THE SAME FUNCTION, 5 SO WE, WHO ARE MANY, ARE ONE BODY IN CHRIST, AND INDIVIDUALLY MEMBERS ONE OF ANOTHER. 6 SINCE WE HAVE GIFTS THAT DIFFER ACCORDING TO THE GRACE GIVEN TO US, EACH OF US IS TO EXERCISE THEM ACCORDINGLY: IF PROPHECY, ACCORDING TO THE PROPORTION OF HIS FAITH;

ROMANS 12:4-8

7 IF SERVICE, IN HIS SERVING; OR HE
WHO TEACHES, IN HIS TEACHING; 8 OR HE
WHO EXHORTS, IN HIS EXHORTATION; HE WHO
GIVES, WITH LIBERALITY; HE WHO LEADS, WITH
DILIGENCE; HE WHO SHOWS MERCY,
WITH CHEERFULNESS.

Introduction



- Called to serve the body of Christ according to the giftings gifted to us by God.
- That was how the early church in the Book of Acts operated.



Introduction

- Church is about community.
- At the heart of the church community is service.
- EVERYONE can and should be involved in serving within the local church community



Introduction

- 2/3 of us are actively serving in at least 1 ministry.
- Many involved in multiple ministries.
- An active culture of serving is a key pillar in our success as a CP church.

Introduction



Introduction

- Often see our success in CP as being a result of the work we do externally.
- Just as important to that success is the strength of our church community.



Introduction

A strong church community is the result of many of us actively and tirelessly serving within the church

Introduction



LET'S SHOW OUR APPRECIATION TO ONE ANOTHER!



Introduction

- Re-visit the question “Why do we serve?”
- Serving in church can be difficult and complicated.
- Important to know why we serve.

2 Things:

1) Our Attitude Towards Serving

2) Our Understanding Of Our MASTER





1) Our Attitude Towards Serving

- Apostle Paul introduced himself as a “bondservant of Christ”.
- “Bondservant” literally means “slave”.
- “Slave” - taboo in our modern context.



1) Our Attitude Towards Serving

- During the time of the New Testament, owning slaves was a common and accepted practice.
- Paul was talking about his identity as a devoted servant of God.

1) Our Attitude Towards Serving

- 3 important characteristics of a slave:
  - ➢ A slave is owned by the master.
- obliged to perform any task commanded by his or her master

1) Our Attitude Towards Serving

- 3 important characteristics of a slave:
  - ➢ A slave is committed to serving his master
  - - primary objective in his life

1) Our Attitude Towards Serving

- 3 important characteristics of a slave:
  - ➢ A slave's service is characterized by permanence.
- Exodus 21 - Jewish law on slavery.



1) Our Attitude Towards Serving

- Paul considered himself a lifelong servant of Jesus.
- 1 Corinthians 6:20
- We have all been bought with a price, we are not our own.



1) Our Attitude Towards Serving

- Paul was deeply committed to the work that the Lord has called him to do.
- He served God to his last breath.



1) Our Attitude Towards Serving

- Do you consider yourself to be a bondservant of Jesus?
- Compare with 2 other models of service:
  - An Employee
  - A Volunteer



1) Our Attitude Towards Serving

- An employee's relationship with his master or employer is predominantly contractual.
- An employee's focus is primarily on self.
- An employee is prepared to work only if the terms and conditions are right.



1) Our Attitude Towards Serving

- Wrong when we carry the same attitude when it comes to serving God.
- “What’s in it for me?”



1) Our Attitude Towards Serving

- An employee looks at personal interest first and foremost.
- A bondservant places the interest of his master as top priority.

1) Our Attitude Towards Serving

- The main characteristic of a volunteer can be described in one word – LIMIT:
  - Limited time and capacity
  - Limited in commitment
  - Stop any time



1) Our Attitude Towards Serving

- To a volunteer, the task or role they have volunteered for is seldom a priority.
- Among the first things to be struck off the list.



1) Our Attitude Towards Serving

- Serving God with a volunteer mindset and attitude means being willing to serve only within limits.
- Prepared only to give a limited amount of time and commitment.



1) Our Attitude Towards Serving

It is one thing to say we want to serve God without neglecting our commitments and responsibilities, and another to use our commitments and responsibilities as an excuse to limit our service to Him.

1) Our Attitude Towards Serving

- **Serving God with the attitude of a bondservant means:**
  - **Serving with the attitude that we are owned by Christ.**
  - **Being fully committed to serve Him in whatever areas He has called us.**

1) Our Attitude Towards Serving

- **Serving God with the attitude of a bondservant means:**
  - **Being prepared to serve Him permanently.**

2) Our Understanding Of Our MASTER



- 2/3 or about 60% of our members serving in at least 1 ministry.
- Very healthy figure.
- Many involved in multiple ministries.

2) Our Understanding Of Our MASTER



- **Whether we serve in 1 or multiple ministries, the challenges are real.**
  - **Demands on our time and energy**
  - **Emotional toll**

2) Our Understanding Of Our MASTER



- Challenges of leadership in church.
- Demands on leaders can be unreasonable and unrealistic.

2) Our Understanding Of Our MASTER



- Overly committed and end up suffering fatigue and burn outs.
- If we serve God to the point of being burned out, then it is possible that we are either serving with our own strength or, worse, serving outside of God's will.

2) Our Understanding Of Our MASTER



- Matthew 11:30
- His yoke is easy and His burden is light.
- Reflects the nature of our Master.

2) Our Understanding Of Our MASTER



When we come to Him and learn how to rely on Him for strength and guidance, a difficult yoke can become easy and a heavy burden become light

2) Our Understanding Of Our MASTER



**“God, this is Your church,
so it’s Your problem.
I don’t know how to solve it,
or even know what to do.
Please show me.”**

2) Our Understanding Of Our MASTER



“God, I don’t know why You are asking me to do this because quite clearly, I’m not up to it. If You have not called me to do this, then please tell me so. But if You have, then please give me the ability and capacity to do it.”

2) Our Understanding Of Our MASTER



- Whatever capabilities and capacity we may have we all still need to rely on God when it comes to serving Him.
- Whatever God has called us to do, He will anoint our hands to do it.

2) Our Understanding Of Our MASTER



- Rely on God to give us the ability and capacity to do His work.
- Rely on His guidance on the amount of work we should take on.

2) Our Understanding Of Our MASTER



- Our capacities and availability can change as we go through different seasons.
- Perfectly fine to scale up or scale down our ministry involvement accordingly.

2) Our Understanding Of Our MASTER



- God cares more about us than the work we can do for Him.
- We serve a Master who loves us and cares for us deeply.

2) Our Understanding Of Our MASTER



- God does not need us to serve Him.
- God wants us to serve Him because He wants us to partake of the meaning and joy in His work.
- When we take care of His business, He never fails to take care of us.

Conclusion

- **Our success in our CP is dependent on the strength of our church community.**

Conclusion

- **Because of the strong church community we have, we can bring new members from the neighbourhood community into our midst and allow them to grow and find a place where they can belong.**

Conclusion

- God’s call for CP is to the generations in LSBC.
- It is work that is worthy of devoting all the days of our lives to.

Conclusion

- Core of CP is the need to continue to keep our church community strong.
- All play our part by serving in the various capacities and roles that God has called us.

Conclusion

- **Serve with the attitude of a bondservant.**
- **Serve with the knowledge and confidence that God will anoint us.**
- **When we serve Him in obedience, God will never fail to take care of us.**

PERSONAL REFLECTION