

May 18 & 21, 2023



## **One Anothers – Week #5 Improving Your SERVE**

*Service: Meeting a need without expecting anything in return.*

1 Peter 4:10 (ESV)

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:

### **1. Check your grip!**

- If love is the brand, servants are the hands!
- Following Jesus means serving others.

Mark 10:45 (NIV)

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

- Service is not just what we do; a servant is who we are.

Ephesians 2:8-10 (NIV)

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

- Servants realize imperfect people are now the authorized agents to receive what I owe the King.

John 13:12-17 (NIV)

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. <sup>13</sup> "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup> Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup> I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. <sup>16</sup> Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. <sup>17</sup> Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

## **2. Be free!**

Galatians 5:1 (NIV)

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Galatians 5:13 (NIV)

You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.

- Your freedom allows you to serve and your service allows you to stay free.

## **3. The serve is the key to greatness!**

- The forgotten path to greatness is service.

John 13:17 (NIV)

Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

Luke 22:24-26 (NIV)

A dispute also arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. <sup>26</sup> But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves.

- Service breaks the control of self-centeredness.
- Service brings hope back into broken relationships.

#### **4. Every serve needs to be placed and every servant has a place!**

Romans 12:3-6a (ESV)

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

<sup>4</sup> For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. <sup>6</sup> Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them:

- You want to change your relationship with God, serve the church.

1 Corinthians 12:22-23a (NIV)

On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup> and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor.

Finding your place:

- Do something!
- Where is there a need?
- Where have I seen success?

## **5. Not having a serve is much more dangerous than you might have thought!**

Matthew 25:26-30 (ESV)

But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? <sup>27</sup> Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup> So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. <sup>29</sup> For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. <sup>30</sup> And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

- Failing to serve won't cost you your salvation, but it could point to the fact that you never had it!