

R A D I U S C H U R C H

Calling real people to real faith in Jesus.

A THEOLOGY OF SERVICE



RADIUS
REAL LIFE. REAL FAITH.

Invite. Welcome. Belong.

It is our hope with this document to provide some common language for our volunteer teams at RADIUS. Volunteering at RADIUS does not require that someone believe in order to belong. Instead it is our hope that serving at RADIUS would allow anyone willing to engage in our community to grow in their understanding of the Gospel and Gospel-community. Our volunteer teams do this in a variety of specific ways, but our common goal is to invite our partners and guests into Gospel-community.

Developing a Common Language

Priesthood - We believe that every follower of Jesus is a priest (1 Peter 2:9). As such, service should be a reflection of our personal priesthood. Serving in the church is one way to live this out, but it should not serve as a replacement for being active in our personal radii. As priests, our duty is to always be going to God on behalf of people - we call this prayer - and to go to people of behalf of God - we call this many things (preaching, teaching, serving, "doing life together").

Community - Serving together forges community bonds. As we serve "shoulder-to-shoulder" in community, we are refined and can grow in our spiritual walk. While some teams, such as First Impressions and Parking, work more in community while serving (quantity time), others, like the Cleaning Team and AV Team, forge community by way of proximity and quality time. All forms of community that are forged in service together help bind believers together personally and corporately. It is in these acts of service that we better refine and live out our personal and corporate missional elements of taking the Gospel to those in our radius.

Team - We serve in teams because they help us grow in community and it is in community that we are transformed. The English word "team" has its origins in the idea of two or more animals sharing a yoke / burden. We serve in teams because in the very concept of team is the idea that we share the load. The pressure of the burden / yoke binds us closer together as we exert effort to shape and change the landscape in front of us.

Leading - Leadership is not simply positional authority in the Church, it is bound to spiritual authority. Spiritual authority is rooted in Jesus. Leaders must be willing to take spiritual responsibility for others - including the care, development and actions of their team members.

Following - We serve under the leadership / authority of others as they serve under the leadership / authority of Jesus. We submit to spiritual authority not because we are less than, but because those in authority have accepted the responsibility for our care and for the actions of the team.

Serving - Serving has a variety of capacities, but all forms of true service bring glory to Jesus and grow our spiritual lives (1 Peter 4:10-11). Serving from compulsion or obligation can be detrimental in the long-run, but is sometimes necessary to break the hold of greed and selfishness in our lives. Acts of service are ideally carried out as an overflow of a generous heart.

Hospitality - Hospitality is simply welcoming strangers. Scripture is littered with the concept of hospitality. The Old Testament shows a great example in David (2 Sam 9:1-13) and others while the New Testament gives us examples in Jesus (Luke 22:27), Gaius (Romans 16:23) and others. The concept of hospitality goes beyond simply providing food or other material necessities. In fact, the OT idea of hospitality extends it to the idea of providing safety / security for a guest (Gen 19:4-8; Ps. 23). This idea has implications for all of our service teams in that while we serve to meet physical and spiritual needs, we are also to be a place of safety and security for our guests.

Generosity - How does service reflect our generosity? Generosity is often associated with monetary giving, but generosity cannot stop with our wallets. A generous heart has much to do with total dollars given but also a lot to do with a lifestyle of giving in all areas of life (financial, spiritual and physical resources).

Corporate mission - We serve together on mission in our city, state, region and around the world to bring the Gospel to all areas of life and to all peoples. We say it like this, "Calling real people to real faith in Jesus." While serving these goals outside of our church's walls together is good, it should be done as an overflow of the work in our personal radii (coaching sports, leading civic organizations, running businesses, etc.).



Cafe Team - Easter 2013



RADIUS: Kids



Parking Team - Easter 2013

Why we Serve

Everyone comes to serve for any number of personal reasons based on their various experiences and backgrounds. However, there are four key reasons why followers of Jesus should serve others:

1. We follow Jesus' example

Throughout His life, Jesus served those around Him. He served those who needed physical healing and spiritual healing (e.g. Mt. 8:1-16; Jn. 4 & 5, et. al.). As followers, we serve to live out His example and care for those around us.

2. We follow the example of the ancient Church

The ancient Church lived out a glowing example of Jesus' service to those less-fortunate. Examples include caring for orphaned children and burying the dead of pagans. The English word "hospital" is derived from the Latin words *hospes* and *hospitium* which are based in the concept of Biblical hospitality - caring for strangers. "Hospitals" in the Middle Ages served many functions: almshouse for the poor and hostels for pilgrims as well as places for those in medical need.

3. It creates community

Serving as a team helps us to grow in community as we work side by side with other followers of Jesus. In serving together we have a unique opportunity to develop work ethic, to serve one another and to be bonded together on mission.

4. It is good for our souls

Ultimately, serving requires us to give the best of ourselves to others. It allows us to work out our faith publicly. Serving within the context of a team refreshes us as we are able to bear one another's burdens and share in each other's joys. Our souls are able to rejoice and find peace as we live out the "one another" commands in Scripture.

Defining Excellence

Serving with excellence is born out of a grateful heart. The more grateful we are to Jesus for what He has done for us and through us, the greater our desire to serve Him with excellence should be. Our service should not come from a place of compulsion, but instead from an overflow of great joy in His redemptive work.

RADIUS defines serving with excellence as providing a welcoming environment for our partners and guests to make meaningful connections to engage and grow in Gospel-community. It is the goal that each service team have a specific way to further this definition within their particular area that is fitting and scaleable. We define excellence because we hope to engage our leaders and volunteers in a way that allows for feedback and coaching to take place.

First Impressions

The First Impressions Team is full of outgoing personalities who love to host and serve guests and partners. This team's purpose is to provide a welcoming environment to make meaningful connections between guests and partners and to engage in quality conversations with all guests to RADIUS.

RADIUS: Kids

RADIUS: Kids is a great place to serve for both parents and non-parents (older adults) who love kids. This team's purpose is to happily engage and interact with children while teaching them about Jesus.

Cafe Team

The Cafe Team serves to continue the welcoming environment provided by the First Impressions Team by inviting guests and partners into deeper community over food and drinks. In the South it is certainly true that if you put a plate and a cup in someone's hand they will stay for a while and enjoy great company. Our Cafe Team strives to create that atmosphere for all of our guests.

Security Team

Our Security Team serves to provide a secure environment for our parents, children, partners and guests. They often have to balance between being inviting faces and maintaining order and security on our campuses. Excellence is defined in maintaining the balance between being warm, hospitable and safe.

Parking Team

Our Parking Team consists of guys who love to engage people outside of the front doors. They assist guests in finding parking both on and off-campus. They take the First Impressions idea of being outgoing and friendly beyond our front porch. Excellence for the Parking Team is defined by both hospitality and safety.

Cleaning Team

The Cleaning Team maintains and cleans our facilities to make them safe, clean environments for our partners and guests. This job is a behind-the-scenes job that is absolutely essential to our mission at RADIUS. Excellence for the Cleaning Team involves seeing and picking up on the details and working with a deep commitment to doing many tasks that are unseen, but that are necessary to providing a hospitable facility.

Audio-Visual Team

The Audio-Visual Team provides technical expertise and support for a variety of events on our campuses. They “lead from the back of the room” and strive to provide a distraction-free environment for folks to encounter Jesus on Sunday mornings. The team includes volunteers who are passionate about the areas of audio, video and lighting and how those components help folks engage in worship.