



Church

Part 6—Serving

Review

- Acts 2:42-47
 - The early church continued steadfastly in discipleship, fellowship, and prayer. This led them to God Encounters and ultimately serving!
- This part of the series is where the rubber meets the road. This is where it starts to really challenge us!

Serving is a Matter of Obedience

- Galatians 6:2
 - Bearing one another's burdens is a matter of obeying the "Law of Christ."
- Galatians 5:13-14
 - This puts hands and feet to the good ideals of Christianity—obedience puts what we know into practice.
- Acts 6
 - This Scripture records how they made a special point to assure that the needs of the church were being met. This was not in place of the teaching and ministry, but along with it. Ministry, teaching and serving worked together and had a high priority!
- Responsibility comes with teaching:
 - James 1:22
 - Bonhoeffer, "The sin of respectable people reveals itself in flight from responsibility."
 - Will we be "obese believers" or "Spiritual athletes"?

Serving Identifies us with Our Savior

- Matthew 20:28
 - Serving is the heartbeat of our Savior and the purpose of His Life.
- Luke 14:27
 - The call to serve was not just for Jesus, it is our call as well.

Serving costs something

- King David understood this principal. When he had need to make a sacrifice, he went to a man in his kingdom to make a sacrifice on his threshing floor and the man offered to donate all that was needed.
 - 2 Samuel 24:24
 - Serving comes at a great cost . . . but there are tremendous benefits!

Serving without Sacrifice is just Self-Serving

- John 12:23-28
 - Jesus is preparing to lay his life down and He offers an invitation in verse. twenty-six: “If you serve me, you follow me and where I am there you will be too!”
- The Disciples understood this.
- Zechariah 4:9-10
 - Seven eyes watching everything
 - Two key people: Joshua “The Priest” & Zerubbabel “The King”
 - We have The Building Project
 - We have The Savior who is coming
- Revelation 1:4-6
 - Seven spirits before the throne
 - The Church – another building project
 - We have the Savior who has come
 - Two key people – we are the kings and priests!

Serving is About Body Building

- 1 John 3:16-18
- Dietrich Bonhoeffer: “We are members of a body, not only when we choose to be, but in our whole existence. Every member serves the whole body, either to its health or to its destruction. This is not mere theory; it is a spiritual reality”
 - We are members of the body and our actions are serving the church
- Matthew 25:34-46
 - What we do or don’t do for each other as the body—we are doing to Him. That’s a “God Encounter.”
- We must not despise the small things, we are a part of supplying what the church that our Lord is building needs.
- Obedience leads to identifying with Jesus which leads to recognizing that, “I’m part of His Body and I’m serving His body,” which leads to a greater desire to obey, and thus, the circle begins again!