

A Church that Serves: A Model of Christian Service

Participant Study Guide

Thursday, May 28, 2020

Series: P.U.R.**S**.U.E. Excellence | Unit: Service

Service. *At the core of Christian love and neighborliness is service. We must serve as unto God; which is to say that our ministry to one other and to our neighbor, is how we serve the Lord. The best of who we are and hope to be is tied to our service.*

Christian service does not happen by accident. Service should be undertaken as a result of prayerful consideration about what we do and why we do it. As such, service should not be an afterthought to be undertaken only when we run out of other ideas or things to do. Further, Christian service should be undertaken with a specific purpose in mind: bringing glory to God through the Lord Jesus Christ.

With this lesson, we will examine a model of Christian service that can help us determine how best to serve in the day when, and places where, we live. The good news is that we don't have to look very far to find an exemplary model after which we should pattern our own service.

John 13:1-17 *A Model of Christian Service*

John 13:1-17 records an important interaction between Jesus and His disciples, and our conception of service. In this familiar episode, we see Jesus washing the feet of His disciples. This is the job of a servant, thus Jesus becomes as a servant and with this object lesson, He reveals and models various aspects of what it means to serve. As such, this lesson highlights five aspects of Jesus' service that should inform the way we serve.

1. Service begins with what a person _____ **(1-3)**
 - a. Jesus knew about this particular stage of His life.
 - b. Jesus knew that God had subjected everything to Jesus' command.
 - c. Jesus knew that He belonged to God.

Question: Do you find yourself waiting for something else before serving? ___

2. Service embodies _____ the role of a servant **(4-5)**
 - a. Jesus was not above lowering Himself socially.
 - b. Jesus prepared the resources for His service.
 - c. Jesus used what covered Him to minister to others.



Question: What will it take for service to be less about what you do, and more about who you are? _____

3. Service insists on the _____ of _____ **(6-8)**
- a. Lack of understanding does not deter Jesus.
 - b. Jesus makes clear the effects of His service.

Question: What can you do when your service is flatly rejected? _____

4. Service models what is _____ for another **(12-15)**
- a. Service confirms Jesus' nature and character.
 - b. Jesus provides a standard for His disciples to live by.

Question: How does your service help people see what is possible for themselves?

5. Service provides lessons for ongoing _____ **(16-17)**
- a. Those who serve are not greater than the One for whom they serve.
 - b. Those who are sent are not greater than the One who sent them.
 - c. Satisfaction/joy/happiness comes to those who do what should be done.

Question: How are your actions impacted by the way Jesus served? _____

Service Statement of Purpose

Now that we have examined John 13:1-17, we are in position to develop our own Service Statement of Purpose. Based on the concepts explored and lessons learned above, what can you say about why you serve and how you serve?

Take a few minutes. Be prayerful, thoughtful and reflective. Use the space below to capture a phrase (at a minimum) that helps explain your purpose for serving (i.e., why and how you serve).

I serve by: _____
