

A Church that Serves: Foundation for Christian Service

Participant Study Guide

Thursday, May 21, 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.*

To be a Christian is to pattern our lives after the model provided by Jesus. One of the lessons from the life of Christ is the primacy of service. The importance of service, however, is not limited to the New Testament. The very nature of human relationship with God is marked by service. This is God's design, Jesus' model, and humanity's duty.

This unit of our P.U.R.S.U.E. Excellence study series is on Service. Over three lessons, we will explore how service should impact and mark our lives. We will discuss the foundations, a model, and reasons of Christian service. Together, let's see how WFLCM can remain committed to, while increasing, our service to God and for others.

Biblical theology for service

The Bible provides a solid foundation for constructing an understanding of Christian service. The following texts help us develop a Bible-based theology for service.

- **Matthew 5:16** - Service is a way for people to _____ God at work in the world and to recognize the need to glorify God.
- **Matthew 20:28** - Service _____ us from self-importance and _____ us with Jesus.
- **Luke 17:5-10** - Service is _____ of believers.
- **1 Corinthians 12:4-7** - Service to one another is a _____-inspired activity intended to _____. The Holy Spirit has equipped us for service.
- **Ephesians 2:8-10** - Service, or good works, should be our response to God's _____ toward us. Service is also a matter of how God _____ us to be.
- **Ephesians 4:11-12** - Service is God's prescription for _____ and _____ health and growth.
- **1 Peter 4:7-11** - Service brings _____ to God when we serve in God's ability for God's purposes.

Here is what we might say concerning a biblical theology of service:

Christian service is a means by which God receives glory through the exercise of faith, as such exercise is undertaken for God's glory and fulfillment of God's purposes in the world.



Importance of service to God

It is easy to think of service as something done from one person to another. While that can certainly be the case, service to another person is not the only way to view service. A necessary aspect of service that we must not forget, is our service to God. Following are a few notes on the importance of service to God:

- **Deuteronomy 11:13-17** - Service to God reveals God's _____ plan.
- **John 12:25-26** - Service to Christ, reveals how God _____ those who trust God.
- **Romans 12:1** - Service to God is an _____ of _____ that we owe to God.
- **1 Corinthians 15:58** - Service to God is not _____.
- **Colossians 3:22-24** - Service _____ our view of God.

Reasons for service to another

- The Holy Spirit has _____ us to serve. Serving demonstrates the Church's diversity of gifts and ways we can minister to another.
- To demonstrate our _____ with God.
- To _____ the Gospel.
- We _____ God.
- To demonstrate who we are as a means of _____ people to join our cause.

For ongoing consideration

1. In what areas of service are you strongest? In what areas can you most improve? _____
_____.
2. How have you been affected by this lesson? In other words, to what will you commit that you have not previously committed to? _____
_____.
3. Do you believe your ability to serve at WFLCM has been hindered in any way? If so, in what ways have you been hindered from serving? _____
_____.
4. How have you improved, or what can you celebrate, in terms of service? _____
_____.