

A Church that Serves: Reasons for Christian Service

Participant Study Guide

Thursday, June 4, 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 dig a little deeper into the importance of Christian service. In addition to Christian service glorifying God through the Lord Jesus Christ, we will also recognize the very real results and benefits of service for those who are being served and those who are serving.

Reasons for Christian Service

By now, we know that God requires believers to serve. But, why? Why isn't it enough for us to just be saved? I don't know how many people actually verbalize these questions or other questions like them. But, it is safe to say that by our actions and our inaction, many Christians hold these questions firmly in heart and mind. By our consideration of the following, maybe we will be able to provide good responses to the questions that are being asked.

As a part of last week's lesson, we developed a personal Statement of Service based on our readings of John 13:1-17. That is not all the Bible offers to us concerning service, however. The term 'purpose' has a diversity of biblical uses or meanings. Whether a thought, a pleasure/delight, a use/function, or a determination, the term lends itself to the idea of that which undergirds or is foundational to someone or something. So, when thinking of the purpose of service for Christians, one should reflect on what about service is foundational to a Christian being a Christian.

Here, then, is some of the other things we can say about the reasons for Christian Service:

- I. A demonstration of our love of God
 - A. Matthew 25:35-40 - Helps us to measure our love of God
 - B. John 21:15-17 - Love of God seen through serving God's



- C. Hebrews 13:12-16 - God takes pleasure in our service

- II. To extend God's moral witness
 - A. Hebrews 13:1-3 - God's moral witness includes personal considerations
 - B. Galatians 5:13 - Resists the ill-effects of personal freedoms

- III. Our fulfillment of mission
 - A. 1 Peter 5:2 - Demonstrates willingness to do as we have been charged
 - B. Acts 20:32-35 - Provides avenues to support those most in need

- IV. Our concern for God's creation
 - A. Genesis 1:28-30 - Enables the enjoyment and replenishing of nature
 - B. Genesis 2:15 - Confirms our responsibility and role for keeping it