

Christian Norms

Serving

Why serve?

1. Definition of serve, servant, service

- a. Doulos—slave, bondsman, submit to (Rom. 1:1)
- b. Diakoneo—deacon, minister, wait tables, care for poor, sick (I Tim. 3:8)
- c. Latreuo—serve, minister (II Tim 1:3)

2. Biblical examples

a. Serving God

- i. Joshua 22:5

*Only be very careful to observe the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, to love the LORD your God, and to walk in all his ways and to keep his commandments and to cling to him and to **serve** him with all your heart and with all your soul*

- ii. Ps. 100:2

***Serve** the LORD with gladness!*

Come into his presence with singing!

- iii. Matt. 6:24

*No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot **serve** God and money*

- iv. Rom. 1:1

*Paul, a **servant**^[a] of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,*

- v. Rom. 12:12

*Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit,^[a] **serve** the Lord.*

b. Serving the people of God

- i. Eph. 4:11-12

*And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds^[a] and teachers,^[a] ¹² to equip the saints for the work of **ministry**, for building up the body of Christ,*

- ii. Rom. 12:6-7

*Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷ if **service**, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching;*

- iii. I Peter 4:10

*As each has received a gift, use it to **serve** one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:*

- iv. Hebrews 6:10

*For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in **servicing** the saints, as you still do.*

v. I Peter 4:10-11

*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: ¹¹ whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who **serves** by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.*

c. **God/man Jesus served**

i. Is. 42:1-9;49:1-6;50:4-7;52:13-53:12

53:11-Messiah suffering servant-

*Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see¹¹ and be satisfied;
by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my **servant**,
make many to be accounted righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.*

ii. Mark 10:35-45

⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to **serve**, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

iii. Phil. 2:5-8

⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,^[a] ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,^[b] ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a **servant**,^[c] being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

iv. John 13

⁴ If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. ¹⁶ Truly, truly, I say to you, a **servant**^[d] is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him

Serve—How

1. Requires humility—John 13; Phil. 2:1-4

*So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ²complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in **humility** count others more significant than yourselves.*

2. Office of servant in the church---Deacon—I Tim. 3

- a. I Tim. 3—office in the church
- b. Acts 6--Helps elders in shepherding and caring for physical needs

3. Believers serving

- a. **All service it to the Lord primarily**--I Samuel 3:10
*¹⁰And the LORD came and stood, calling as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your **servant** hears*
- b. **Serve the Church and others**—I Cor. 12—
*⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of **service**, but the same Lord;*
 - i. **Variety of gifts—serve the Lord and his people with gifts**
3 categories of gifts
 - **Prophetic**—God to people
Examples—speaking, teaching, evangelism,
 - **Priestly**—others to God
Sympathetic, encouragement (counsel), helps, healing, serving, giving, mercy
 - **Kingly**—gives direction
Elder, leadership vision, problem solving, administration
 - ii. **Where to serve**
 1. Where you have ability—you are good at it
 2. Where you have affinity—you like it
 3. Where there is opportunity—there is a need—START HERE
 - iii. **Examples at Crosspointe Community Church**
 1. **Leadership**—pastor, elders, small group leaders, ministry leaders, worship leaders, specific tasks (such as missions etc.)
 2. **Hands and feet**—ushers and greeters, hospitality, givers, finance-counters, security, technology, counseling, worship ministry, evangelism, help needy (sick, weak, hungry, poor), serving in ministries—children, students, adults (men and women), facility grounds, caring and helping others in any way

Discussion questions on serving:

1. How did Jesus show that he was a servant?
2. Who are some of the notable servants in the Bible—those with true servant hearts?
3. What are some areas of service you have enjoyed doing in life and in church? Who served you well and blessed you with their deeds of service?
4. How can you find your spiritual gifts and talents and serve Christ with them.