

Holy Habits: Serve

The most common word for serving in the New Testament is διακονεω (dee-ak-on-o). The word is translated as serve, service, ministry, distribution, relief, deacon, to wait on, and take care of. Serving comes in many different ways. Consider a few of these below:

Serving is teaching the Bible

Acts 6:4 "we will give ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

Serving is proclaiming the Gospel

2 Corin 5:18-19 "who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: That is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to Himself."

Serving is showing hospitality

1 Corin 16:15 "Brothers, you know the household of Stephanas: They are the first fruits of Achaia and have devoted themselves to serving the saints."

Serving is caring for the needy

Acts 6:1 "their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution."

Serving is sharing resources within the local church

Acts 2:44-45 "Now all the believers were together and held all things in common. They sold their possessions and property and distributed the proceeds to all, as anyone had a need."

Serving is giving financially to help other churches, missionaries, and missions

Acts 11:29 "So each of the disciples, according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brothers who lived in Judea."

We Serve Because It is an Expression of Our Worship :

Our actions are tied with our beliefs as well as our view of God. Our motivations are often driven by unconscious convictions and worldviews. In some regard, it is all tied in with our worship. Worship is placing trust, value, and worth on something or someone through allegiance, gifts, and service. *Refer to the previous week's message and notes about worship.* Jesus connects worship and service together:

"Then Jesus told him, "Go away, Satan! For it is written: Worship the Lord your God and serve only Him." Matt. 4:10

Caring for those who need help, who need assistance, who need support, especially during their times of distress are appropriate responses, practices, service and worship in the eyes of God:

"Pure and undefiled religion before our God and Father is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained by the world." James 1:27

We Serve Because It Keeps The Church United and Healthy

A house divided will not stand. A church with division and dysfunction will lack its full potential and design. A church is called to forgive, work together, learn together, pray for each other, and serve one another.

"So the body is not one part but many... ²² But even more, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are necessary." 1 Cor. 12:14-22

We Serve Because It Shows the Love of God to a World Who Doesn't Know God

"...for man sees what is visible, but the LORD sees the heart" 1 Sam. 16:7

Humanity will only believe that you really care about them when they see that you are caring for humanity.

Read Matt. 5:13-16.

We are the salt of the earth. Jesus is saying that you and I are in the world to provide some seasoning, some interest to otherwise boring food, to make things taste better, to keep things preserved and from going bad.

We are the light of the world. Jesus is saying that you and I are the objects to brighten people's paths, to guide them around in life, to comfort them from the fears of darkness.

We don't do it to boast or pat ourselves on the back. We don't serve to please mankind. We serve others to serve God. We do it because God calls us to serve and to love others. As we do those things, it will be inevitable and unavoidable for others to take notice. Let people know what we are for, more than they know what we are against.

We Serve Because It's What God Commands Us To Do

On day as Jesus was teaching about forgiveness, He taught them to forgive a person even if they sinned against you seven times a day. The disciples responded astonished and asked for their faith to be increased in order to do such a thing. Jesus told them they only needed faith the size of a mustard seed to accomplish such spiritual tasks. He then tells a story of an owner telling his servant to serve. As the servant serves, the owner doesn't thank him and congratulate him. After all, he is doing his duty and what he was commanded to do (Luke 17:3-10). We serve because God tells us to and that is our duty. We forgive because God tells us to and that is our duty.

1) In what ways are you serving?

2) Is there anything you are going to do differently now?