

L-path Teaching
May 05, 2024

May Theme: **ENCOURAGING SERVICE**

Big Idea: Christian Service encourages the sacrifice of self, defined by humility. It is the evidence of our connectedness as believers offering intense dignity to the served. Service shapes the church and community not by force and power but by grace and meekness, not by instruction and policy but by example and action.

Text: Matthew 25:40

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

Title: **THE VALUE OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE**

Big Idea: How good it is to know that our service is not in vain; it is a noble matter. It is good when the motive for service is lifted above all that which is ordinary and on to a dignified level to which it really belongs.

Text: 1 Corinthians 12:18-27 (NLT)

18But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it. 19How strange a body would be if it had only one part! 20Yes, there are many parts, but only one body. 21The eye can never say to the hand, “I don’t need you.” The head can’t say to the feet, “I don’t need you.” 22In fact, some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary. 23And the parts we regard as less honorable are those we clothe with the greatest care. So we carefully protect those parts that should not be seen, 24while the more honorable parts do not require this special care. So God has put the body together such that extra honor and care are given to those parts that have less dignity. 25This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other. 26If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad. 27All of you together are Christ’s body, and each of you is a part of it.

Introduction

- **The greatest desire of a Christian who have a knowledge of the will of God should be to become a worker in His cause.**
- **It is a blessed matter that there should be a desire in our hearts to serve God’s purpose.**
- **Our union with Christ creates our union with others.** First to the body of the believers, then to others.
- **This union is not just about relationships, but more about service.** Doing good to others.
 - *Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. -Galatians 6:10*

- **Christian service is a noble and honorable thing to do. It is a valuable and important part of our Christian life.**

THE VALUE OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE

1. **Christian service is how we contribute to the body.**

- 18But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it. 19How strange a body would be if it had only one part! 20Yes, there are many parts, but only one body. 21The eye can never say to the hand, "I don't need you." The head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you."*
- First, where we are now is not an accident. It is God's perfect place for us. It is where God will use us.**
 - ...God has put each part just where he wants it.*
- Second, who we are right now is not an accident. That is how God will use us.**
 - 19How strange a body would be if it had only one part! 20Yes, there are many parts, but only one body. 21The eye can never say to the hand, "I don't need you." The head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you."*
 - Every part is important. Not one is indispensable.
- Why is every part important?**
 - Because each part has its function. It contributes to the whole body.**
 - As each part functions, it makes the body whole.
 - But if one part does not function, the whole body is affected.
 - *26If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad.*
 - We often see people who are visible in church like pastors, worship team, ushers. But there are people behind the scenes who are just as important as those in front. Workers who prepare the seats, IT that creates the PowerPoint decks, counters that counts our giving, cooks in our mission trips, our guard that opens and closes the church.
 - Every role is equally important.
- Doing our part is important. It helps the body to be healthy.**
- One study I read says,
 - 'Churches with 50% or more of their attendees actively volunteering usually means that the church is growing. It is healthy.'**
 - 'Key to growing a church is to have 20% of the people as leaders.'**
 - In our last FIRE Convergence, these 2 numbers are,
 - We only have 22% as workers.
 - We only have 12% as leaders.
 - We have work to do.
- The services that we contribute to the church is important. It makes us better.**

2. **Christian service connects us with each other.**

- 22In fact, some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary. 23And the parts we regard as less honorable are*

those we clothe with the greatest care. So we carefully protect those parts that should not be seen, 24while the more honorable parts do not require this special care. So God has put the body together such that extra honor and care are given to those parts that have less dignity. 25This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other. 26If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad.

- b. Diversity is part of God's design of the body. Each part has different situations and needs.**
- c. The stronger parts protect the weaker parts. The lesser parts supplement the bigger parts.**
 - i. The hand which is the stronger part of our body protects the eyes, nose, that are weaker parts of the body.
 - ii. The ligaments, while it is the smaller part of the body, it supplements and link together the bigger parts of the body like the bones.
- d. So is in the Body of Christ.
 - i. Those who are stronger cares for the weaker members.**
 - ii. And those who are lesser, supplements the body in their own simple ways.** (Like testimonies, this encourages even the strongest in the church)
- e. Differences in the church should not result to conflicts and divisions, but rather should lead to unity.**
 - i. *25This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other. 26If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad.*
- f. As we serve each other, it brings harmony to the body. It connects us to each other.**
- g. And as we serve others outside of the church, it connects them to the body.**
- h. The more we serve others, the stronger the connection gets.**

Conclusion:

- **Life is meant to serve others. This is the true definition of self-worth, service. This is how our value is realized.**
- **Our value is not determined by how much we have (talents, riches, knowledge), or how good we are, but with how much we share with others.**
- It is how we use the life God has given us for His ministry (service).
 - **Money if not used, is worthless. It is just a piece of paper.**
 - **Medicines, if not taken, is useless. It will not cure anyone.**
 - **Life if not used to serve God and others, is empty. It will be meaningless.**
- **The true value of life comes by doing God's purpose in our life. And that is accomplished through service.**
- Christian service is a noble and honorable thing to do. It is a valuable and important part in our Christian life.
- Let us do our part!

DISCUSSION:

1. Personal reflection: Are we doing our part in the church?
2. In what way do you see yourself to be serving more God's purpose in your life?