

## CT Church – New Believers

### Serving Your Church

#### Chapter 6

#### Serving

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Serving is: providing, performing duties for another.

The Greek word used in the New Testament translates to the word ministering, which means; to serve, to attend to.

*“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.” – 1 Peter 4:10*

Being a member of a church is an active role, not a passive one of just warming a seat. Throughout the Scriptures God accomplishes much through the actions of his faithful servants:

Noah built an ark

Moses walked as he led the people through the desert

Samson yielded a jawbone of a donkey

David slung a stone at Goliath

The prophets prophesied

Peter walked on water

Paul preached the Gospel

And on and on did God’s saints serve God and His people through their actions.

Jesus Himself came not to be served but to serve. If the Lord Himself is able to serve us, how much more are we to serve others?

*“Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” – Matthew 20:28*

*“Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.” – John 12:14-15*

So as Jesus’s life and even His death was an example of His service to humanity, He very clearly tells us Himself that we should serve.

*“...whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave.” – Matthew 20:26-27*

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#### Serving Others is Serving Christ

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As a believer in Christ, you should recognize that following Christ is more than sitting in church to be entertained by catchy music and a humorous message. But as a believer in Christ, you should act and behave like a Christian. If a mechanic doesn't fix cars, he's not a mechanic. If a fireman doesn't put out fires and protect people from fires, he's not a fireman. It's what these people do determines who they are.

Jesus said that people will know us by what we do, not by what we say we are.

*“By their fruit you will recognize them...Likewise every good tree bears good fruit but a bad tree bears bad fruit.” **Matthew 7:16-17***

Some of verse 16 was left out for expediency but it reads that, “one doesn't pick grapes from thornbushes...” Correct, one picks grapes from grapevines. You don't call a plumber for your electrical problem.

The book of James makes it very clear that just saying we have faith, faith in Jesus, makes us a believer but believing isn't all that defines a Christian, but it is also what we do.

*“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourself. Do what it says.” – **James 1:22***

*“What good is it my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds...faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action is dead.”  
– **James 2:14, 17***

There is probably no clearer example of the importance of serving others as there is in the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats.

**READ: Matthew 25:31-46**

*“I tell you the truth, whatever you did for the least of these brothers (KJV uses brethren) of mine, you did for me.” – **Matthew 25:40***

In this setting of Scripture Jesus says that those who did for others it was as if they were tending to Him so they get to enter into God's kingdom (v.34). But to those who did not tend or serve others they will spend eternity in punishment.

Maybe it really is greater to give than it is to receive...

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#### How Do I Serve?

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Remember our opening verse for this chapter (1 Peter 4:10), each one should use whatever gift he/she has for serving others.

We also covered (in Chapter 4) the many gifts that we may have in the Spirit:

#### The Gifts

- Word of Wisdom
- Word of Knowledge
- Faith
- Healing
- Miracles
- Prophecy
- Discernment
- Speaking in different Tongues
- Interpretation of Tongues
- Ministry of Service
- Teaching
- Encouraging
- Leading
- Mercy

One obscure gift listed in this array of giftings is “Ministry of Service” (Rom 12:7) that of serving others. You may be discouraged that you’re not an apostle or evangelists or a prophet but serving is a much needed gift in God’s kingdom.

When Jesus fed the 5,000 in Matthew 14:13-21, Jesus assigned the disciples to task of feeding and cleaning up:

*“...He gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people...and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over...” – Matthew 14:19-20*

Earlier we covered how Jesus washed the disciples feet and here the disciples are serving food and cleaning up. There should be nothing beneath anyone of us in regards of service to others that we should not be willing to do for the Lord.

There have been doctors, lawyers and professionals of many types who have served in areas of ushering, greeting, teaching in the children’s ministry. Serving God is much more than preaching on Sunday mornings.

*“Whatever you do whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”*  
– **Colossians 3:17**

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##### Serve with love & Gladness

When serving others it should be done with loving joy and gladness. When Jesus fed the 5,000 as mentioned earlier, the scriptures indicated that He was moved with “*compassion*” (Matthew 14:14).

*“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly and whoever sows generously will also reap generously...for God loves a cheerful giver.” – 2 Corinthians 9:6-7*

#### Serving Opportunities

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Here at Community Transformation Church, there are numerous opportunities in which one may serve. Here are some of the many opportunities:

- Ushering - escorting guests to seats and maintaining order in service
- Greeters - welcome and greet all church attendees
- Hospitality - providing a hospitable environment for fellowship
- Children’s Ministry - teaching and assisting our children during services
- Media - providing audio & video support to our services
- Nursery - caring for infants and toddlers during services
- ACT - community outreach
- & much much more...

To be a member of a church does not mean to warm a seat but to do the work of the Lord. If we do not all do our part, our church is less effective.

*“so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to the others. We have different gifts according to the grace given us...”*  
**- Romans 12:5-6**

*“The body is a unit though it is made up of many parts and though all its parts are many, they form one body...those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor...”* - **1 Corinthians 12:12, 22-23**

Don’t just attend church but be the church; participate, serve as Jesus and His disciples did. And in serving well you will hear some of the greatest words from all eternity;

*“...Well done good and faithful servant...Come and share your master’s happiness!”* – **Matthew 25:23**