
Basic Disciplines for Believers

Discipline #6: Selfless Serving

God's purpose and plan in saving me involves my selfless serving of others for the growth of His body & the advancement of His kingdom.

Why Serve? 6 Reasons to Serve:

1. The Example of Jesus (Son of God, Creator of the Universe)

Matt 20:28 "just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." (cp. John 13:1-17)

2. The Commendation of Early Believers

1 Cor 16:15 I urge you, brethren-- you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and *that* they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints--¹⁶ that you also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with *us*.

3. The Command to Serve One Another

Gal 5:13 For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not *use* liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

4. The Goal of Leaders

Eph 4:12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

5. The Purpose of Spiritual Gifts

1 Pet 4:10 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

6. The Promise of God's Recognition and Reward

Heb 6:10-12 ¹⁰For God *is* not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, *in that* you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

1 Cor 15:58

Down Is Up: God's View of Greatness

Matthew 20:20-28

²⁵ But Jesus called them to *Himself* and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. ²⁶ "Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. ²⁷ "And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave--²⁸ "just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." (cp Mark 10:35-45)

Matthew 23:1-12

⁶ "They love the best places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues, ⁷ "greetings in the marketplaces, and to be called by men, 'Rabbi, Rabbi.' ⁸ "But you, do not be called 'Rabbi'; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren. ⁹ "Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. ¹⁰ "And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ. ¹¹ "But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. ¹² "And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

Mark 9:33-35

³³ Then He came to Capernaum. And when He was in the house He asked them, "What was it you disputed among yourselves on the road?" ³⁴ But they kept silent, for on the road they had disputed among themselves who *would be the* greatest. ³⁵ And He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all."

John 13:1-17

What Is Service? A Baker's Dozen List

1. Preaching the Gospel
(Acts 12:25; 2 Cor 5:18; Col 1:23,25)
2. Teaching the Word
(Acts 6:4; 1 Tim 4:6; 1 Pet 4:10-11)
3. Assisting the proclaimers
(Matt 27:55; Mark 15:41; Luke 8:3; Acts 19:22; Eph 6:21; Col 1:7; Col 4:7; 2 Tim 1:16-18; 2 Tim 4:11)
4. Helping the helpers
(1 Cor 16:15-16; 1 Thes 5:12-13)
5. Preparing /serving food
(Matt 25:44; John 12:2; Acts 6:1; Acts 6:2; Matt 8:15 Peter's mother-in-law)
6. Washing the saints feet (Perform needed tedious tasks)
(John 13; 1 Tim 5:10)
7. Bringing up /caring for children
(1 Tim 5:9)
8. Caring for the sick
(1 Tim 5:10)
9. Showing hospitality
(1 Tim 5:10)
10. Supporting the weak
(1 Thes 5:14; James 1:27)
11. Comforting the faint-hearted
(1 Thes 5:14)
12. Warn the unruly
(1 Thes 5:14)
13. Giving to the needs of the saints
(2 Cor 8:4; 2 Cor 9:1; 2 Cor 9:12)