

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

Matt 20:20-28 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)

Matt 23:1-12 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 ³⁵And 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

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|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Preaching the Gospel | 7. Bringing up /caring for children |
| 2. Teaching the Word | 8. Caring for the sick |
| 3. Assisting the proclaimers | 9. Showing hospitality |
| 4. Helping the helpers | 10. Supporting the weak |
| 5. Preparing /serving food | 11. Comforting the faint-hearted |
| 6. Washing the saints feet | 12. Warn the unruly |
| (Perform needed tedious tasks) | 13. Giving to the needs of the saints |

Follow the ... Server: Helping Those Who Help

1 Cor 16:15-16 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*.
Παρακαλῶ δὲ ὑμᾶς, ἀδελφοί· οἶδατε τὴν οἰκίαν Στεφανᾶ, ὅτι ἐστὶν ἀπαρχὴ τῆς Ἀχαΐας καὶ εἰς διακονίαν τοῖς ἁγίοις ἔταξαν ἑαυτοὺς· ἵνα καὶ ὑμεῖς ὑποτάσσησθε τοῖς τοιούτοις καὶ παντὶ τῷ συνεργῶντι καὶ κοπιῶντι.
ESV they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints--
KJV they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,)
YLT to the ministration to the saints they did set themselves -

DECISION: _____

DECIDER: _____

DIRECTION: _____

2 Tim 1:16-18 ¹⁶The Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain; ¹⁷but when he arrived in Rome, he sought me out very zealously and found *me*. ¹⁸The Lord grant to him that he may find mercy from the Lord in that Day--and you know very well how many ways he ministered to *me* at Ephesus.

1Th 5:12-13 ¹²And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, ¹³and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves.

Rom 16:1 I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant of the church in Cenchrea, διάκονον τῆς ἐκκλησίας τῆς ἐν Κεγχρεαῖς,

Eph 6:21 But that you also may know my affairs *and* how I am doing, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make all things known to you; (cf. Col 4:7)

Ἵνα δὲ εἰδῆτε καὶ ὑμεῖς τὰ κατ' ἐμέ, τί πράσσω, πάντα γνωρίσει ὑμῖν Τύχικος ὁ ἀγαπητὸς ἀδελφὸς καὶ πιστὸς διάκονος ἐν κυρίῳ,

Col 1:7 as you also learned from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, καθὼς ἐμάθετε ἀπὸ Ἐπαφρά τοῦ ἀγαπητοῦ συνδούλου ἡμῶν, ὃς ἐστὶν πιστὸς ὑπὲρ ὑμῶν διάκονος τοῦ Χριστοῦ,

1 Tim 4:6 If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed.

Ταῦτα ὑποτιθέμενος τοῖς ἀδελφοῖς καλὸς ἐση διάκονος Χριστοῦ Ἰησοῦ, ἐντρεφόμενος τοῖς λόγοις τῆς πίστεως καὶ τῆς καλῆς διδασκαλίας ἣ παρηκολούθηκας·