
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 (God) (Matt 20:28; John 13:1-17)
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."
2. The Commendation of Early Believers (1 Cor 16:15-16)
3. The Command to Serve One Another (Gal 5:13)
4. The Goal of Leaders (Eph 4:12)
5. The Purpose of Spiritual Gifts (1 Pet 4:10)
6. The Promise of God's Recognition and Reward (Heb 6:10-12; 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*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

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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
(Perform needed tedious tasks) | 12. Warn the unruly |
| | 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*. (cf. 1 Thes 5:12-13; 2 Tim 1:16-18; Rom 16:1; Eph 6:21; Col 1:7; 1 Tim 4:6)

The DECISION:" **devoted**"

The DECIDER: "**themselves**" (the household of Stephanus)

The DIRECTION: "**to the ministry of the saints**"

The DIRECTIVE: "**submit yourselves** to such, and to everyone who works and labors with [us]."

Liberty: Free to Serve

Galatians 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.

FREEDOM ≠ FREE TO DO WHAT I WANT":

1. Liberty = Freedom to Serve (13)
 - Our Calling → Freedom from the law and from lust
 - Our Cause → Not serving self but serving saints
2. Law = Love Your Neighbor as Yourself (14)
3. Lust = Following Your Impulses & Feelings (15)

SPIRIT VS. FLESH:

4. Two Choices = Spirit-living Defeats Lust-living (16)
5. Two Forces (17) – The Spirit Against the Flesh
6. Two Worlds – Under the Law / Free from the Law (18)
7. Two Results:
 - Lustful Living → Works of Flesh (19-21)
 - Spirit Walking → Fruit of Spirit (22-23)
8. Two Camps – With Christ & Without Christ (24)
9. Two Parts – Life & Walk – Birth & Behavior (25)
10. Two Possibilities – By the Flesh or By the Spirit

Rom 6:6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with *Him*, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

Rom 7:6 But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not *in* the oldness of the letter.

1 Thes 1:9 For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,

Titus 3:1-8