

Whatever You Do ...  
Colossians 3:22-24, Exodus 20:8-11  
April 15, 2018

I owe you an apology. I've done you a disservice.

In a sense, this church has done you a disservice.

We encourage and offer you opportunities to read the Bible. -  
- Calendar.

We encourage and offer you opportunities to pray.  
- Prayer gathering.

We don't do quite so good a job of encouraging and offering  
you opportunities to serve.

Yet service is essential to the Christian life.

Let me quickly share 5 reasons ...

1. We serve Christ, not just people.

Colossians 3:22-24 22 Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. 23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, 24 since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

I'm the taxman, ... and you're working for no one but me.

Don't serve because I asked you.

Don't serve because the church needs your work.

Serve Christ.

Addressed to slaves. How much more to our voluntary  
service!

We bring cookies for Christ.

We play and sing music for Christ.

We teach for Christ. We preach for Christ.

We make banners for Christ

We go to meetings for Christ

We clean for Christ

2 Service helps us grow in love.

Ephesians 4:16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

As the church grows in love, you grow in love. I grow in love.

The church grows in love as each part works. Serves.

We are God's love in ACTIONS.

Working together helps us love each other.

Love helps us work together!

3 We are gifted by God for service.

Romans 12:6-8 We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; <sup>7</sup> if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; <sup>8</sup> if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully. (See also I Corinthians 12)

We cooperate with the outer work of the Holy Spirit:

Upon us for empowerment.

4 Service helps us become like Jesus.

Mark 10:43-45 "Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Gospel

I John 4:11 Dear friends, since God so loves us, we also ought to love one another.

"Kevin, you be Jesus."

In service we cooperate with the inner work of the Holy Spirit.  
Within us for sanctification, Christ-likeness.

5 Service expresses our faith.

Ephesians 2:8-10 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

10 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

James 2:17-19 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. 18 But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds."

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. 19 You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

*Like the dead sea. No out-flow.*

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Each ACTIONS Team needs:

- An elder
- A Chair person (approved by Session)
- An Intercessor (Prayer minister)
- Team Members.

At the Pentecost Festival on May 20:

The ADORE team will help organize music to be played during lunch.

The CARE team will make sure there are prayer ministers available for folks.

The TEACH team will plan some games and workshops.

The INVOLVE team will oversee our covered dish dinner and Birthday cake.

The OFFER NEW Life team will be in charge of publicity and invitation.

The STEWARDSHIP team will be responsible for set up and take down.

So please, accept my apology,

Forgive me for failing to adequately emphasize such an important aspect of spiritual growth,

And sign up for a team.

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

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