



A Non-Serving Christian – Say What?

Ephesians 2:10 (TLB) *It is God himself who has made us what we are and given us new lives from Christ Jesus; and long ages ago he planned that we should spend these lives in helping others.*

Romans 12:1 (GNT) *So then, my friends, because of God's great mercy to us I appeal to you: Offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to his service and pleasing to him. This is the true worship that you should offer.*

Why doesn't God just take us to heaven the moment we accept His grace?

- Once we are saved, we are here to fulfill His purposes. God has a MINISTRY for you in His church and a MISSION for you in the world!

We are called to serve God...

1 Corinthians 12:27 (NLT) *All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it.*

- Each of us has a role to play in serving in church and each role is important.
- Matthew 20:28 (TLB) *Your attitude must be like my own, for I, the Messiah, did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give my life as a ransom for many.*
- It is not enough to keep learning more and more, we must ACT on what we know and PRACTICE what we claim to believe.

SHAPE

- Spiritual Gifts -- Ephesians 4:7 (CEV) *Christ has generously divided out his gifts to us.*
- Heart – Describes the bundles of desire, hopes, interests, ambitions, dreams and affections we have. The source of your motivations. What you love to do and what you care about most.
- Abilities – The natural talents you were born with. 1 Corinthians 10:31 (NIV) *So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.*
- Personality – God loves variety. Look around, there are introverts, extroverts, routines, variety, thinkers, feelers, individual and team players.
- 1 Corinthians 12:6 (PHILLIPS) *God works through different men in different ways, but it is the same God who achieves his purposes through them all.*
- Experiences – God has allowed the experiences of your life to shape you to help others.

How do servants think?

Romans 12:2 (NLT) *Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.*

Servants have this mindset...

- Think more about others than themselves.
- Think like STEWARDS not owners.
- Base their IDENTITY in Christ.

"In order to be of service to others we have to die to them, that is, we have to give up measuring our meaning and value with the yardstick of others." -- Henri Nouwen

- Think of ministry as an OPPORTUNITY, not an obligation.

True significance...

You are going to live your life for something, what will it be?

Life Groups

Scriptures that Relate:

Monday: Romans 8
Tuesday: Romans 9

Wednesday: Romans 12
Thursday: Ephesians 3

Friday: Ephesians 4
Saturday: Ephesians 5

Talk it Over:

- Do you serve God out of duty or thankfulness?
- Where have you served that is truly satisfying and making a kingdom difference?
- Of all the parts of SHAPE, which, for you, is the most difficult to understand?
- How could you think more like a servant?
- What will you live your life for?

Pastor Brian's Prayer Requests

Monday: Pray for eyes to see today as God sees today.

Tuesday: Pray for ears to hear as God hears today.

Wednesday: Pray for an opportunity to serve today.

Thursday: Pray for an opportunity to love as Christ loves today.

Friday: Pray for our church land and that church leadership would sense God's leading clearly.

Saturday: Pray for our weekend services that God would speak loud and lives would be changed.