

Outline: The Discipline of Service

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Three foundational principles

First foundational principle: Every person is created to do good works.

Ephesians 2.10: "We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which He prepared in advance for us to do."

Albert Schweitzer: "The only really happy people are those who have learned to serve."

Second foundational principle: we are called to serve like Jesus served.

Matthew 20.28. "The Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many."

John 13.14: "Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set an example that you should do as I have done for you."

Philippians 2.4-11: "Do not merely look out for your own interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bondservant, and being made in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

Third foundational principal: Everyone has something special to offer.

I Corinthians 12.7: "Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good."

Wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, prophecy, administration, teaching, leadership, service, music, art, dance, drama, craftsmanship, building,

hospitality, cooking, scholarship, sewing, gardening, inventing, protecting others, writing, designing, finance, justice, statesmanship, and prayer.

Four observations

First, we serve with gratitude.

1 John 4.19: "We love, because God first loved us."

Second, we each serve in different ways.

Third, sometimes we pick our service, and sometimes our service picks us.

"You will be most effective when you use your spiritual gifts and abilities in the area of your heart's desire, and in a way that expresses your personality and experiences." However, "While you may not be gifted for a particular task, you may be called to do it if no one gifted at it is around to do it."

Rick Warren, 40 Days of Purpose.

Fourth, we are called to serve the poor and needy.

John Wesley: "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as you can."

Richard Foster: "Lord Jesus, as it would please you, bring me someone today whom I can serve."