

Today is Ministry Sunday we have every ministry now in the church to give everyone an opportunity to discover what we do here at His Place and choose to participate in serving.....why? .... The most important aspect of serving or participating in the life of the family of God is that we cannot grow mature without it? ..... in fact The word servant or serve is mentioned 500 times in the Bible.

- When a child grows up to whom everything is given to them...and who is not required to serve, have responsibilities or earn anything they have...
- And if they have not had to process through difficulties...and the parents strove to protect them from having to deal with emotional pain, or relationship difficulties or consequences for their actions..
- They will grow up with an entitlement mind set.... Exemplified by the belief the world owes them ...and they should not suffer...the world is there to serve them...
- and it is interesting that children who grow up on the other end of the spectrum...in a deprived, or abusive environment...also often develop with the same entitlement mind set...they are owed, for the world has done them wrong

But when we enter into the family of God...we enter into a different family and a different growth starts...often called sanctification...and a new way to live as members of His now and future Kingdom...and this kingdom has a unique economy...

**Tim please put up....** *For only in the Economy of God can you sow into another person's field and reap a harvest in your own!!*

*2 Cor 9:6 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. A principle...the context giving to another church....*

*NIV Matt 10:42* And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.”

**\*\*\*\*This new economy is based on serving others...and serving others creates a NEW WAY OF THINKING ...**

*NIV Matt 20:25* Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant,

- **Servant hood becomes a central reason for being. We were born to serve. All service is first service to God...**

*NIV Matt 25:37* “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? <sup>38</sup> When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? <sup>39</sup> When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ <sup>40</sup> “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

**Whatever you do for the least you do for Christ. Whoever wants to become great, must serve others ...when I sow I receive....that Is a new way to think ...when I sow inot another person’s life I reap in my life!**

**\*\*\*\*This new thinking creates a NEW WAY OF ACTING ...We start to act like Jesus!**

Jesus said *NLT Luke 22:27* Who is more important, the **one** who sits at the table or the **one** who serves? The **one** who sits at the table, of course. But not here! For I am **among you as one** who serves.

- **Serving at the table is better for us than sitting at the table...meaning you are more like Jesus when you serve than when you are served...**

- **Richard Foster says the flesh whines against service but screams against hidden service.**

*NLT Matt 6:3 But when you give to someone in need, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. <sup>4</sup> Give your gifts in private, and your Father, who sees everything, will reward you*

- **We naturally strain for recognition when we serve.**
- **In fact our flesh...will devise subtle religiously acceptable means to call personal attention to the service rendered.**
- **When our Lord Jesus turned the water into wine in John chapter two, it was only those who were involved by filling the water pots who knew what our Lord had done**
- **It is great in God's economy to serve one another at the table...**

**\*\*\*WE ARE ALSO HERE TO SERVE PEOPLE WHO ARE OUTSIDE AND NOT EVEN AT THE TBLE...THE MARGINALIZED, THE FORGOTTEN**

*NLT Mark 9:35 He sat down, called the twelve disciples over to him, and said, "Whoever wants to be first must take last place and be the servant of everyone else." <sup>36</sup> Then he put a little child among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup> "Anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf<sup>[h]</sup> welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not only me but also my Father who sent me."*

- **A little child. Scholars tell us that Jesus selected a child as a way of saying to the disciples that they were to serve those who were helpless, those who could not help themselves, regardless of their age. **This is how we best serve God--by serving the least and the lowest.****
- **A little child. I am so glad that there are people in this church who regard serving children as a part of their life purpose.**
- **\*\*\*\*\*A group of European theologians once visited Mother Teresa in Calcutta. She said to them, "You try to do what I am doing, then you**

will be able to enjoy what I am doing." She took them to one of her childcare centers and picked up a child who was playing in the mud and gave the child a kiss. She waited for her guests to do the same. None of them did.

- \*\*\*\*\*Several years ago, on the eve of his execution for a well publicized crime, a doomed criminal was interviewed by a newspaper reporter. One of the things he said evoked genuine sympathy: "If in my childhood I had been paid one percent of the attention I am now getting," he said, "I wouldn't be going to the chair." Children. Those are our first customers. But Christ has other customers equally as important.
- We have in this house ministries and also outside these walls ministries that reach the hurting.

**And lastly SERVING CREATES A NEW PURPOSE For LIVING...** Weak people chase pleasure, Strong people chase purpose

**If your lonely the most important thing you can do is find a place to serve others...**

**Statistics demonstrate those that are generous with the finances...will make more money next year? Why? You see yourself as an agent of positive change...you are empowered when you are helping other people.... You add another purpose to your work...**

**When you give love you get love.... There was a study...where they took two groups of people...one group watches a lot of tv etc...the other does a service to people...the second group will have a mood boost for days!!**

**Because it is in that service that we produces maturity...** NLT Eph 4:11 Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. <sup>12</sup>Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. <sup>13</sup>This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will

be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.<sup>14</sup> Then we will no longer be immature like children.

- **Maturity in our faith...requires relationships with each-other in the family of God ... and that is accomplished in service to others...there is no other way to measure up to the full standard of Jesus.**
- **How? just like in a family we learn to share...How? by having to share..**
- **Just like in a family we learn to work with others..How? by having to work with others...**
- **just like in a family we learn to get along...How? ... by working with others to get along...**
- **just like in a family we learn to forgive? How? By getting hurt just like in a family....**
- **the result we become like Christ...**

*Luke 6:40 The student is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like their teacher.*

- **Doing life together is much bigger than a once a week meeting at a select time and select location. Serving is the thread that weaves throughout all that we are as a community, it is where we discover what following Jesus Christ is all about**

***So how to start...Finding your place in God's community, starts with finding a place to get involved in ...***

**we will influence the world like our teacher...**

***and remember... only in the Economy of God can you sow into another person's field and reap a harvest in your own!!***

End. send me!!