

Huddle

*Love, Serve, Pursue - Serve God,
Serve People, February 24, 2013*

Describe a time this week when it brought joy to have the opportunity to serve someone.

Through this series, Pastor Phil challenged us to choose to love and serve God and people. Jesus called us to “agape love” which is a deliberate, intentional love involving our thoughts, words, and actions. This love signals we are a Christ disciple and is demonstrated three ways.

1. By keeping His commandments
2. By our care for other believers
3. By our loving God more, and the world less

This love motivates us to love other believers, our neighbors and even our enemies.

How has this series helped you love more?

What do you admire about Simeon’s relationship with God and why?

Giving yourself over to complete mastery of another is no laughing matter. T Austin Sparks said “For this **service** of the fullness of Christ, the servant has to be on that basis, a bond-slave, one in complete subjection to the Lord. He or she has no rights whatever. What a conception of the servant of the Lord! It has to be like that. To serve the Lord in any fullness, we have to come there.” - From the “Bondservant of a Despot”

Is there a part of you which fights against this concept of serving God? Why or why not?

Bob Sorge in “The Fire of God’s Love” says “He wants us to serve Him because we love Him, not because we love accomplishments or love to see the fruit of our labors.” He also reminds us that our eternal reward will be based directly on the motives for why we served.

What do you think motivates your current service to God?

Romans 12:9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. 10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; 11 not lagging in diligence, **fervent in spirit, serving the Lord**; 12 rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; 13 distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. NKJV

Servant evangelism = deeds of love + words of love + adequate time. The greatest act of evangelism we can do is to serve people—Jesus Did!

The ultimate challenge came through Simeon’s example. Luke 2:25 And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.27 So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, 28 he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: 29 **“Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace,** According to Your word; 30 For my eyes have seen Your salvation”. NKJV

Simeon had a unique servant relationship with God. Not only was he led by the Spirit; he saw God as Lord “Despot”. This means Simeon was a willing bond-servant in complete subjection to His Lord.

Let’s Get Real!

Our motivation for serving matters. Here are great motives:

- A natural response to a loving God who gave himself for us
- Serving God is the most powerful definition of true worship
- To please God and persuade men
- We want to bring honor and glory to Him.

Robert Foster said “All of our lives belong to God. Every task we do is for His glory.”

What motives would you like to have at the center of all your service? How can you make these a high priority?

Galatians 5:13 For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don’t use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love. 14 For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” NLT

“A servant’s job is to do all he can to make life better for others - to free them to be everything they can be. A servant’s first interest is not in himself but others ... Servanthood is a loving choice we make to minister to others.” Source: Gayle D. Erwin, *The Jesus Style*, 48

How do you think God is calling you to serve differently than you are already serving?

In light of Jesus’ example in giving up His own life as a “ransom for many”, we observe servant leadership means:

- seeing ourselves as called by God to serve/lead others
- knowing intimately the people we serve/lead
- caring deeply about the people we serve/lead
- being willing to sacrifice our own convenience to meet the needs of the people we serve/lead

Walk it Out

How will you serve through deeds of love + words of love + adequate time this week?