

There were no handouts for lessons 1-5 of this series. The handouts for lessons 6-11 are included in this packet.

Growing Deeper in the Love of Christ

Ephesians 3:16-20

Introduction

- Do you ever feel distant from Christ?
 - Do you ever find yourself questioning His love for you?
 - Do you struggle loving other people or accepting love from others?
 - Do you find serving God to be a chore at times?
1. The key to all of these issues is growing deeper in the love of Christ.
 2. Do you desire to grow deeper in the love of Christ? If so, there are three decisions you must make, based on Ephesians 3:16-20.

I am determined to _____ and _____. vs. 16

1. Paul was praying for some divine, supernatural growth to take place in the inner spirits of these believers.
2. Do you know what spiritual growth looks like in the believer? _____!
 - *“For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”*
Hebrews 5:12-14

I will trust Christ in _____ area of my life. vs. 17

1. As long as you withhold parts of your _____ from Christ, you will never know His love in a personal and intimate way.
2. As you give Christ every area of your heart, you become rooted and grounded in _____.

- *“As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.” Colossians 2:6-7*

I will accept Christ’s unconditional _____ for me. vs. 18-19

1. How do you grow in the knowledge of this love?
2. It must be spiritually revealed through God’s Word. You read God’s Word and you accept it by _____.

Conclusion

1. When you make these decisions, what is the result?
 - God’s love begins _____ over in your life. vs. 19b
2. Christ will begin doing things _____ you that you could have never imagined. vs. 20
 - There is no way God’s love can be shared _____ you until you understand God’s love _____ you.

Our Church Motto

Growing deeper in the love of Christ that we may share that love with others.

A Church for Others: Ministry Abounds

Romans 12:1-11

Introduction

1. Have you every wondered why God didn't take you to heaven after you trusted Christ and entered His family? It is because God has a _____ for you to do.
2. What did the Thessalonian believers do after they were saved? They _____!
1 Thessalonians 1:9
3. God has a ministry for you! Ministry is giving to and serving _____.
4. In a church for others, ministry abounds. Every believer should be actively engaged in ministry.
5. Why is this so crucial that every person be involved in ministry?

First, every believer is _____ to serve. vs. 1-2

1. These people had experienced God's mercy and forgiveness. Paul said, "Is it not reasonable that you should serve this One who saved you?"
2. If you have been saved by His mercy, you don't serve Him out of guilt, shame, or fear. You serve Him out of gratitude because you _____ to!
3. Paul said that as we minister for God, it is a _____ sacrifice. Christ died for us so we could _____ unto Him.
 - *"And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again."*
2 Corinthians 5:15
 - *"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."* Ephesians 2:10

Second, every believer is _____ to serve. vs. 3-8

1. God likens the church to a human body. vs. 4-5
 - You have different members of your body with different functions, but they _____ have a function.

2. When God places you in the body of the church, He expects you to _____, not vegetate.
3. Because God expects you to function as a contributing member of the body, God has _____ you to serve or minister. vs. 6
4. The purpose of your gifts is to be a _____ to others. 1 Corinthians 14:12; 1 Peter 4:10
5. The effectiveness of our church depends on the number of people who are _____ in meaningful ministry.

Come back next week for part 2 of this study.

A Church for Others: Ministry Abounds – Part 2

Romans 12:1-11

Introduction

1. Have you every wondered why God didn't take you to heaven after you trusted Christ and entered His family? It is because God has a _____ for you to do.
2. God has a ministry for you! Ministry is giving to and serving _____.

First, every believer is _____ to serve. vs. 1-2

Second, every believer is _____ to serve. vs. 3-8

1. When God places you in the body of the church, He expects you to _____, not vegetate.
2. Because God expects you to function as a contributing member of the body, God has gifted you to serve or minister. vs. 6
3. The purpose of your gifts is to be a _____ to others. 1 Corinthians 14:12; 1 Peter 4:10
4. The effectiveness of our church depends on the number of people who are involved in meaningful ministry.
5. God gifts certain people in the church with teaching and leadership gifts so that they can _____ and mature the saints and prepare **them** for ministry. Ephesians 4:11-16
 - Once they prepare them, they _____ them loose and let them minister!
6. The apostle Paul lists these team gifts in verses 6-8.
 - _____ - This gift deals with the proclamation of God's truth.
 - _____ - This is the gift of working behind the scenes, performing necessary jobs, manual tasks, doing whatever it takes to help and get the job done.
 - _____ - This is the gift of communicating and clarifying the details of God's Word in such a way that others will learn.

- _____ - This is the gift of encouraging and challenging others to follow God's Word.
- _____ - This is a strong desire to give and share of your material resources to further the work of God.
- _____ - This is the gift of leading, organizing, and administrating ministries and people.
- Showing _____ - This is the gift of ministering to those who are sick, suffering, or afflicted.

7. Here are a few important principles about these gifts:

- You don't _____ these gifts.
- These gifts aren't for you; they are for the edification of _____.
- You must _____ and develop your gifts.
- Never confuse spiritual _____ with spiritual responsibility.

Third, every believer is _____ to serve. vs. 9-11

1. We are commanded to **fervently** serve the Lord. It is not a suggestion, but a clear-cut _____.
2. Ministry is not _____ for the believer.
3. When we examine the life of Christ, we see clearly that serving God really means serving _____.
4. You can't be like _____ if you are not serving.

In Conclusion:

1. You will never know the _____ of impacting lives, and we will not become a church for others, until each member is actively engaged in ministry.
2. One of the greatest decisions that you could ever make is to _____ your place of ministry and service for the Lord.

A Church for Others: Ministry Abounds – Part 3

Romans 12:1-11

Introduction

1. Have you every wondered why God didn't take you to heaven after you trusted Christ and entered His family? It is because God has a work for you to do.
2. God has a ministry for you! Ministry is giving to and serving others.

First, every believer is saved to serve. vs. 1-2

Second, every believer is gifted to serve. vs. 3-8

1. When God places you in the body of the church, He expects you to function, not vegetate.
2. Because God expects you to function as a contributing member of the body, God has gifted you to serve or minister. vs. 6
3. The purpose of your gifts is to be a blessing to others. 1 Corinthians 14:12; 1 Peter 4:10
4. The effectiveness of our church depends on the number of people who are involved in meaningful ministry.
5. God gifts certain people in the church with teaching and leadership gifts so that they can grow and mature the saints and prepare **them** for ministry.
Ephesians 4:11-16
 - Once they prepare them, they _____ them loose and let them minister!
6. The apostle Paul lists these team gifts in verses 6-8.
 - _____ - This gift deals with the proclamation of God's truth.
 - _____ - This is the gift of working behind the scenes, performing necessary jobs, manual tasks, doing whatever it takes to help and get the job done.
 - _____ - This is the gift of communicating and clarifying the details of God's Word in such a way that others will learn.

- _____ - This is the gift of encouraging and challenging others to follow God's Word.
- _____ - This is a strong desire to give and share of your material resources to further the work of God.
- _____ - This is the gift of leading, organizing, and administering ministries and people.
- Showing _____ - This is the gift of ministering to those who are sick, suffering, or afflicted.

7. Here are a few important principles about these gifts:

- You don't _____ these gifts.
- These gifts aren't for you; they are for the edification of _____.
- You must _____ and develop your gifts.
- Never confuse spiritual _____ with spiritual responsibility.

Third, every believer is _____ to serve. vs. 9-11

1. We are commanded to **fervently** serve the Lord. It is not a suggestion, but a clear-cut _____.
2. Ministry is not _____ for the believer.
3. When we examine the life of Christ, we see clearly that serving God really means serving _____.
4. You can't be like _____ if you are not serving.

In Conclusion:

1. You will never know the _____ of impacting lives, and we will not become a church for others, until each member is actively engaged in ministry.
2. One of the greatest decisions that you could ever make is to _____ your place of ministry and service for the Lord.

A Church for Others

“Reaching Out Through Sacrificial Giving”

Philippians 4:10-19

Introduction:

1. Here is the brutal reality: ministry takes _____!
2. As Paul ministered for the Lord, he had financial needs (vs. 16). How were those needs met? It came through the sacrificial _____ of God's people.
3. Every believer should be growing in the grace of giving. Why is this so crucial?

First, sacrificial giving reflects godly _____. vs. 10-12

1. Giving is God's designed way to _____ our hearts against the black hole of covetousness.
2. It is very hard to _____ sacrificially when we are _____ sacrificially for all our material possessions.
3. As we give each week to the Lord, it is a constant _____ that it's not all about us; it is about God and what God is doing in light of eternity.

Second, sacrificial giving allows the gospel of Christ to _____. vs. 15-16

1. It takes _____ to sustain ministry.
2. How does God meet the needs for ministry? He does it through His children's sacrificial _____.

Third, sacrificial giving brings heavenly _____.

1. According to verse 18, did God see their sacrificial giving? Yes No
2. What effect did their sacrificial giving have on God? It was “_____!”
3. These Christians _____ in Paul's ministry through their sacrificial giving.
4. It was laying up eternal _____ for them that they will enjoy for all of eternity.

In Conclusion:

- According to this passage, there are three keys to becoming a sacrificial giver:
 - Make a _____ decision. vs. 15
 - Make it a _____ practice. vs. 10, 16
 - Trust _____ to give through you. vs. 13

A Church for Others
“A Spirit of Servanthood Abounds”
Philippians 2:5-8

Introduction:

1. _____ is what determines action.
2. If we want to be followers of Christ, it begins with right _____.
3. What is the mind of Christ? According to Philippians 2:6-8, it is a spirit of **servanthood**.
4. When a person possesses a spirit of servanthood, what does it look like?

First, a _____ spirit. vs. 6-7

1. Jesus laid aside His privileges for the good of _____.
 - *“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.” Hebrews 2:9-10*
2. Are you a team player? Would other people characterize you this way?
3. The opposite of a team spirit is a spirit of _____.

Second, a _____ spirit. vs. 8

1. Humility is an attitude of the mind and heart. It starts _____ and works its way out.
2. Humility is a _____ from arrogance.
3. Humility is a recognition that all that we have, and all that we are, comes from _____.

4. A spirit of arrogance _____ relationships.
 - *“Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom.”*
Proverbs 13:10
 - *“Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.”* 1 Peter 5:5

Third, an _____ spirit.

1. Christ became *“obedient unto death.”*
2. This word “obedient” means “attentively listening; submissive.”
3. Christ's spirit of servanthood showed in that He _____ and was submissive to the Father, even to the point of death.

In Conclusion:

- *“Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may _____ you in due time.”* 1 Peter 5:6