

## Purpose 5: Giving Ourselves In Service

### Introduction:

- A. {Purpose Statement} “to give ourselves in services as God shapes us”
  - B. **[B-17 Bomber – 11 shots to the gas tank – Note in Czech “This is all we can do for you now.”]**
  - C. WHAT CAN WE DO? WHAT CAN I DO?
  - D. 1 Cor. 12:11&12
  - E. “As members of Scottsville Road each of us has a ministry that God has shaped us for.”
  - F. How?
  - G. We need to focus together and separately...
- I. We must give ourselves in service as a church. (vs. 12)
- A. As a church, every member has a purpose in the body.
    - a. God designed the church for each of us to have a part.
      - i. *“For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.”* – Rom. 12:4-8
      - ii. The church has a place for everybody.
        - 1. If person cannot find a place to serve in their church, something is wrong.
        - 2. This is to be a place of ministry.
      - iii. The Lord never made a position for spectator.
        - 1. We are here to serve, not to sit.
        - 2. **[Basketball Fans]**
        - 3. WHERE IS MY POSITION?
    - b. God never intended all of the church to serve the same way.
      - i. *“For in fact the body is not one member but many. If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. And if they were all one member, where would the body be?”* – 1 Cor. 12:14-19
      - ii. We must remember that the church functions as a body.
        - 1. Each body part is import to the health of the body.
        - 2. If a particular part is missing, the rest of the body is affected.
        - 3. **[Jigsaw Puzzle]**
      - iii. However, we should never look at our place of service in the church as being unworthy.
        - 1. No position is greater than the other.
        - 2. Pastor, Teachers, Ushers, = all equal in importance.
        - 3. We may see our service as small, but it is vital to the health of this church.
  - c. God expects us to be submissive in our service as a church.
    - i. *“For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.”* – Eph. 5:23&24
    - ii. When we serve in our ministry we are making ourselves subject to Christ.
      - 1. We are being an obedient church.

- 2. We are following the authority of our Lord.
  - iii. But what does a disobedient church look like?
    - 1. “A one man show”
    - 2. “1 out of 10”
    - 3. “A club”
  - iv. We must all take up our role or we are being disobedient to Christ.
- B. As a church, we must recognize the need for one body ministry.
- a. Each member is responsible to take part in ministry.
    - i. “*And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ” – Eph. 4:11&12*
    - ii. It is the responsibility of the leadership of this church, to train our congregation to do the work of the ministry.
      - 1. Many church members today believe they are only to take...
      - 2. But in reality, God expects each to add.
      - 3. ***[The measure of a man is not how many servants he has, but how many men he serves. – D.L. Moody]***
    - iii. It is time for each of us to realize our responsibility.
  - b. Each member’s ministry has been designed to be service for the Lord.
    - i. “*There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all*” – 1 Cor. 12:4-7
    - ii. We may all have different jobs, but we all have the same goal... TO GLORIFY GOD!
      - 1. Our faithful service brings glory to God.
      - 2. No matter what I’m doing...

- a. Pruning bushes
  - b. Teaching children
  - c. Greeting guest
  - d. Playing music
  - e. Preaching a sermon
- 3. All our service is intended to glorify God!
- c. Each member’s ministry brings love and unity to the whole body.
    - i. “*That there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.*” – 1 Cor. 12:25-27
    - ii. When we minister as a body we function like a body.
      - 1. If one is hurt, we all hurt.
      - 2. **[Stomp your little toe]**
      - 3. When one is blessed, we all are blessed.
    - iii. We should never split over responsibility.
      - 1. You may not be doing this role or that, but that doesn’t mean that those who do have it are wrong.
      - 2. We must learn to love, care, and serve alongside one another.

“Now we understand as a church, now...”

- II. We must give ourselves in service as individuals. (vs. 11)
- A. As individuals, we must understand why we should serve.
- a. We were saved with a purpose to work.
    - i. “*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*” – Eph. 2:8-10

- ii. God has a purpose for you.
  1. That purpose is to do WORK!!!
  2. **[Broom Maker]**
  3. In some way God saved you and prepared just for you a special task.
- iii. No Christian is useless.
  1. God has a plan for you.
  2. We must go and find it.
- b. God has fashioned each of us for a specific ministry.
  - i. *“Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: “See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, to design artistic works, to work in gold, in silver, in bronze, in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all manner of workmanship.” – Ex. 31:1-5*
    1. Bezalel
    2. God shape him to be a key workman for the tabernacle.
  - ii. Each of us have been fashioned or shaped for as specific ministry.
    1. This is an obvious truth.
    2. You can just see it.
      - a. Some are builders
      - b. Some are teachers
      - c. Some are social connector
    3. But in each of these God has made them that way.
      - a. “What is my ministry?” – **SHAPE CLASS**
      - b. But how?
      - c. God has gift each of us in some way.
- c. We must use the gifts God has given us for ministry.
  - i. *“For I wish that all men were even as I myself. But each one has his own gift from God, one in this manner and another in that.” – 1 Cor. 7:7*

- ii. God has not gifted us all the same.
  1. **[I am not a carpenter]**
  2. Aren’t you glad we are not all gifted the say way?
- iii. However, God has given you a gift, so you should use it.
  1. This may take flexing some spiritual mussels.
  2. You may not be so great at first, but you will see yourself grow your place of ministry.
  3. But if you don’t use your gifts as God intended you to, you may fall into spiritual atrophy.
- B. As individuals, we must understand how to serve.
  - a. We should serve with all our heart.
    - i. *“But take careful heed to do the commandment and the law which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, to love the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways, to keep His commandments, to hold fast to Him, and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul.” – Josh. 22:5*
  - ii. We need to serve the LORD with everything in us.
    1. We work hardest after the things we care the most about.
    2. “Does your service to God, reflect your love for Him?”
    3. **[God has three sorts of servants in the world: some are slaves, and serve Him from fear; others are hirelings, and serve for wages; and the last are sons, who serve because they love.]**
    4. We must strive to give our all in ministry.
- b. We should serve as if we were serving Jesus Himself.
  - i. Matt. 25:34-40

- ii. The Lord sees our service to others as service to Him.
  - 1. Whether we are feeding the homeless or scrubbing the church floors, we need to realize that we are doing it unto the Lord.
  - 2. How much more would it change our act of service, if we remembered that Jesus is watching?
  - 3. **[First Job – Weeding – Boss looking]**
- iii. We must serve Jesus only the best.
- c. We should serve knowing our work is accomplishing God's will.
  - i. *“Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.” – Heb. 13:20&21*
  - ii. What an amazing thought.
    - 1. When I am working in ministry, I am doing the will of God.
    - 2. But not only am I doing “good works,” but God working through me to do what pleases Him.
  - iii. If you really want to please God, allow Him to work through you, but surrendering to Him in ministry.
  - iv. **[“*The difference between mediocrity and excellence is midnight oil, elbow grease, and the power of God.*” – Shelton Smith]**

## Conclusion

- A. Have you found your place in ministry yet?
- B. Have you found your purpose in life?