

The One Another Life – A Gospel Community

Week 5 – Serving One Another
(1 Peter 4:8-11)

OPENING QUESTION

What has God placed in your hands that He intends you to use for the good of somebody else?

KEY VERSE

“Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve others, as good stewards of the varied grace of God.” - 1 Peter 4:10

THE INSTRUCTION

1. Above all, keep loving one another.

Above all, maintain constant love for one another, since love covers a multitude of sins.” -1 Peter 4:8

What’s true: Christian fellowship depends on ongoing love. This is why Peter begins with love before moving to hospitality, spiritual gifts, and service. Everything believers do for one another must grow out of that love. The closer Christians live together, the more they see one another’s weaknesses, and love keeps those weaknesses from poisoning life together.

What to do: Keep loving one another even when people are difficult, imperfect, or disappointing. Pay attention to what is happening in your heart toward people. If you are becoming irritated with everyone, then you may need to return to Peter’s first command: *“Above all, maintain constant love for one another.”* The goal is not merely to have a church where things get done. The goal is to have a church where people are loved while they are being served.

2. Open your life to others without complaining.

“Be hospitable to one another without complaining.” – 1 Peter 4:9

What’s true: Christlike service willingly makes room for other people.

Hospitality in the first century could be costly. Travel was difficult, and believers often depended on other Christians opening their homes. Peter is writing to people who were under pressure, and he tells them to make room for others.

Hospitality is not about throwing parties arbitrarily; it is about opening your life. The command is to love people, not to perform hosting.

What to do: Make room for people without resenting the inconvenience. Who needs your time or attention? Have you become so protective of your comfort and schedule that you leave little room for others?

3. Use the Spiritual gift God has given you for the good of others.

“Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve others, as good stewards of the varied grace of God.” - Colossians 3:10

What’s true: Every believer has received a spiritual gift from God, and God intends that gift to be used for the good of others.

Peter’s word for “gift” refers to a grace-gift, a spiritual gift God gives to believers. These gifts are entrusted to us as stewards so that God’s grace can be expressed through His people in different ways. That spiritual gift may be expressed through teaching, encouraging, giving, leading, helping, showing mercy, hospitality, or other forms of service. As stewards, we manage what belongs to someone else. So, the gift is not ultimately ours to hoard, neglect, or use just for ourselves. God has entrusted it to us for the good of His people.

What to do: Use the gift God has entrusted to you for the good of others. Serving does not mean saying yes to everything. It does not mean neglecting your family, enabling sin, or doing for others what God requires them to take responsibility for themselves. Faithful stewardship means using what God has given according to His priorities and for others' good.

4. Serve in God’s strength so **God receives the glory**.

“If anyone speaks, let it be as one who speaks God’s words; if anyone serves, let it be from the strength God provides, so that God may be glorified through Jesus Christ in everything.” – 1 Peter 4:11

Peter gives two broad categories here: speaking and serving. Some gifts are exercised primarily through words, and others through acts of service. In both cases, they come from God, and Peter tells us their purpose: “so that God may be glorified through Jesus Christ in everything.”

What’s true: God supplies His people with gifts and strength so that their service ultimately displays His glory rather than their own.

What to do: Serve without making it about you; do it so God gets the glory.

THE MAIN IDEA

Main Idea: Believers are stewards of God’s grace and are to use their spiritual gifts to serve one another in love so that God is glorified in everything.

LOOK TO CHRIST

Peter’s picture of service becomes clearer when we look to Jesus. Christ is the One who gives, supplies, and is meant to be seen through our service. That is why Peter says God should be glorified through Jesus Christ in everything. The goal is not to impress people, but that, through what we say and do, others see something of God’s grace in Christ in us. And when service becomes costly, tiring, or unnoticed, the same Lord who calls us to serve supplies the strength we need.

APPLICATION

1. Am I serving people while slowly losing love for them? Do I quietly resent the inconvenience they bring?
2. Where could I make room in my life for someone else? Is there someone God has placed near me whom I could serve this week in a specific, practical way?
3. What spiritual gift has God entrusted to me? How is that gift being used for the good of other people? Who gets the glory when I serve?
4. What ordinary abilities, resources, or opportunities might God be using as channels for that gift?
5. Am I serving from God’s strength or from guilt and pressure?
6. Am I waiting for someone to ask me to serve, and am I paying attention to needs around me and taking initiative?