

PHILOSOPHY OF SERVICE: CHARACTER PART 2

2. BE GOD'S PASSAGEWAY OF POWER

THE GIFTS WE HAVE ARE BY HIS GRACE.

In Greek, "charismata" (χαρίσματα) is the plural form of "charisma" (χάρισμα), meaning a "gift of grace" or "divine gift". CHARISMATA can be defined as "GRACE GIFTS". In a Christian context, it specifically refers to the spiritual gifts given by the Holy Spirit to believers to enable them to fulfill their roles and responsibilities within the Christian community.

ROMANS 12:5-8 NIV

5 so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. 6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; 7 if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 8 if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

THE SERVICE WE DO IS BY HIS POWER.

*"Service is not doing great things for God. It is God doing great things through you."
J. Hudson Taylor*

ACTS 1:8 NIV

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

1 CORINTHIANS 12:17-21 NIV

17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. 19 If they were all one part, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, but one body. 21 The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!"

*"Pride will keep you from admitting you are wrong, even when you know you are, and will cause you to say you are right, even when you know you are not. Pride builds barriers and destroys bridges. **Humility is important because it is the only antidote to pride.** Humility removes anxiety (you no longer worry about yourself because you don't think about yourself; ...jealousy (you not only don't compare yourself to others, you rejoice in the success of others); ...apathy (you realize you should care more about others than you should for yourself; and insensitivity (you desire to serve others and meet their needs)."*

James Merritt

Character Still Counts



Take note of the Apostle Paul's HUMILITY and UNDERSTANDING:

1 TIMOTHY 1:15 NIV

15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—**of whom I am the worst.**

1 CORINTHIANS 15:10 NASB

10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me.

3. BE GOD'S PORTRAYAL OF AGAPE LOVE

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-7 NLT

4 Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud 5 or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. 6 It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. 7 Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

"Few chapters in the Bible have suffered more misinterpretation and misapplication than 1 Corinthians 13. Divorced from its context, it becomes "a hymn to love" or a sentimental sermon on Christian brotherhood. Many people fail to see that Paul was still dealing with the Corinthians' problems when he wrote these words..."

Warren Wiersbe

LOVE is the single most essential ingredient of life. This one word will influence all our relationships.

1 CORINTHIANS 14:1 TLB

1 Let love be your greatest aim.

1 CORINTHIANS 14:1 MSG

1 Go after a life of love as if your life depended on it—because it does.

INFORMATION does not change anything. APPLICATION is what changes everything! **WHEN IT COMES TO LOVE IT IS NOT WHAT WE KNOW, IT IS WHAT WE DO!** We choose DAILY not to follow our emotions, but rather, to lead it to love others.

1 THESSALONIANS 3:12 NLT

12 And may the Lord make your love for one another and for all people grow and overflow, just as our love for you overflows.

PHILIPPIANS 1:9 ISV

9 And this is my prayer, that your love will keep on growing more and more with full knowledge and insight,

1 JOHN 4:7 TLB

7 Dear friends, let us practice loving each other

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. In what ways have you been trying to serve in your own power rather than God's power?
2. What steps can you take to better portray God's sacrificial and unconditional love in your own area of service?