

UNITED WE STAND

Part 2: Serve Us or Service

Objective: To challenge us to be intentional about identifying and meeting the needs in our community.

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; 7 rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death - even death on a cross!

Philippians 2:5-8

Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. 26 Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant. 27 and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Matthew 20:25-28

Also read **John 13:1-17**

- When it comes to church, is your first thought what you can get from it or is it what you can do to serve in and through the church? (Be honest).
- When is the last time you worked with a group on a project that didn't simply benefit you? How did it go? How much did political differences matter or not matter? Did you develop or deepen any friendships in the process?
- Can you think of any ways the church has attempted to co-opt political agendas to ensure we remain or become influential in our culture? Describe what you mean.
- It has been said that, if the church in America served others the way Jesus called us to, there would be little or no need for social programs. Do you believe the church could actually make that a reality? What do you think would be the impact on the lives of others?
- The pastor said, "We have spent too much time trying to step on toes and not enough time washing feet." Which do you think will have the greater impact for Jesus in your community? Which do you spend more time doing?

Consider this week:

- What can you do to identify and meet the needs of someone else?

Final Thought: Before you seek to get something from the church, work on being the church and offering tangible acts of service to your community.

