

Living to Serve

The Living Series is a set of 10 teachings that are designed to equip new believers in the fundamentals of following the Lord Jesus Christ.

These teachings are also designed to serve as refreshers on the fundamentals for those who sense their walk with Christ needs a tuneup.

This teaching breaks down as follows;

1. Christ is our example of serving.
2. We are saved to serve God.
3. We are saved to serve God's people.
4. The realities of serving God and His people.
5. Closing exhortations.

Christ is our example of serving.

- **Matthew 20:28** “**just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve**, and to give His life a ransom for many.”
➤ ***The ministry is not about being served but serving.***
- **Luke 22:27** “For who *is* greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? *Is it not he who sits at the table?* **Yet I am among you as the One who serves.**”
➤ ***Be among God's people as one who serves.***
- **John 13:3-5; 12-17** ³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, ⁴ rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and **girded Himself**. ⁵ After that, **He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe *them* with the towel with which He was girded.** ¹² So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, “**Do you know what I have done to you?** ¹³ You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. ¹⁴ If I then, *your* Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ **For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.** ¹⁶ Most assuredly, I say to you, **a servant is not greater than his master**; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. ¹⁷ If you know these things, **blessed are you if you do them.**
➤ ***Let us follow the servant-hearted example of the Lord. He was willing to do the job of the lowest slave in the house.***

- **Philippians 2:5-8** ⁵ Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷ but ⁸ made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of death*, even the death of the cross.

We are saved to serve God.

- **Exodus 8:1** And the Lord spoke to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord: **"Let My people go, that they may serve Me."**
- ***The purpose of freedom is the freedom to serve the LORD.***
- **Deuteronomy 11:13** 'And it shall be that if you earnestly obey My commandments which I command you today, to love the Lord your God and **serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul,**
- ***The LORD deserves that we serve Him all that we are, and not halfheartedly.***
- **Joshua 24:15** "And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. **But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."**
- ***The head of the house should lead his family in serving God.***
- **Matthew 4:10** Then Jesus said to him, ¹⁰ "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, '**You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.**' "
- ***Obedience is the highest form of worship and unselfish service to God is an expression of that worship.***
- **Mark 12:30** "And **you shall love the Lord your God** with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and **with all your strength.**' This is the first commandment."
- ***God commands His people to love Him with all of their strength and ability.***
- **Ephesians 6:6** not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but **as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart,**
- ***A servant of Christ lays down his will for the will of God.***

- **Acts 20:19** serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews;
 ➤ ***We should serve the Lord with an attitude of humility. We don't got to serve God, we get to serve Him.***
- **Acts 27:23** For there stood by me this night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve,
 ➤ ***When you belong to God, you serve Him.***
- **Romans 12:11** not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;
 ➤ ***Servants of Christ are not lazy but diligent in serving Him.***
- **1 Corinthians 4:1** Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.
 ➤ ***Servants of Christ is part of our new identity.***
- **1 Thessalonians 1:9** For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,
 ➤ ***A Christian is someone who has turned from serving lifeless idols to serving the living and true God.***
- **Hebrews 9:14** how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?
 ➤ ***A Christian is someone whose conscience has been cleansed from dead works to serve the living God.***
- **Hebrews 12:28** Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.
 ➤ ***Our response to God's undeserved grace should be serving Him acceptably with deep, godly respect.***
- **Revelation 22:3** And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him.
 ➤ ***Christians who serve God in this life, will serve Him in the next life.***

We are saved to serve God's people?

- **Matthew 8:14-15** ¹⁴ Now when Jesus had come into Peter's house, He saw his wife's mother lying sick with a fever. ¹⁵ So He touched her hand, and the fever left her. And she arose and served them.

➤ ***If the Lord has touched our lives we should rise up and serve Him and His people.***

- **Galatians 5:13** For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not *use* liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but **through love serve one another.**

➤ ***A Church that lovingly serves each other will be a Church that is rightly using its freedom in Christ.***

➤ ***Life becomes most fulfilling when we live it for others.***

- **1 John 3:16** By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And **we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.**

➤ ***Love is laying down your life in service for the family of God.***

- **1 Corinthians 9:19** For though I am free from all *men*, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more;

➤ ***Servant-hearted people win more souls than lazy people, or preoccupied people.***

- **1 Corinthians 16:15-16** ¹⁵ "I urge you, brethren—you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and *that* **they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints**— ¹⁶ that you also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with *us*."

➤ ***Healthy Churches are made up of Christian families who have devoted themselves to the Lord in serving His people.***

➤ ***Churches die a slow death when people stop serving.***

- **Romans 16:1** I commend to you Phoebe our sister, **who is a servant of the church** in Cenchrea,

➤ ***This sister was known for being a servant of the Church.***

- **1 Corinthians 12:4-7** ⁴ There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵ There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. ⁶ And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. ⁷ **But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:**

➤ ***God designed His Church to function by cooperation and that leads to the benefit of everyone.***

- **Ephesians 4:16** from whom the whole body, joined and knit together **by what every joint supplies**, according to the effective working **by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.**

- ***When God's people work together and everyone does their share, it causes the people to grow stronger and be built up in love.***

The realities of serving God and His people.

- **Luke 10:40** But Martha **was distracted with much serving**, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me."
 - ***Do not let the ministry come between you and the LORD.***
 - ***Ministry flows from intimacy, not intimacy from ministry.***
 - ***We may grow tired in serving, but we do not get tired of serving.***
- **You are not going to please everyone with your service.**
 - **Mark 7:37** "And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, "**He has done all things well.** He makes both the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."
 - ***Regardless of people's opinions, simply keep doing all things well. Serve in a way that is worthy of God.***
- **Jude 1:12** These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, **serving only themselves.** *They are* clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots;
 - ***Not everyone who is serving, is serving God and His people, but serving only themselves; their own motives and agendas.***

Closing Exhortations:

- **Hebrews 6:10** "For **God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love** which you have shown toward His name, *in that* you have ministered to the saints, and do minister."
 - ***God sees our labor of love done for His people as done unto Him.***
- **Matthew 24:46** "Blessed is that servant whom his master, **when he comes, will find so doing.**"
 - ***When the Lord returns, will He find you doing what He told you to be doing.***
- **Matthew 25:21** "His lord said to him, '**Well done, good and faithful servant;** you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. **Enter into the joy of your lord.**'"

➤ **Hearing the Lord tell you this will be greater than any and all earthly accomplishments.**

- **John 12:26** "If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor."

➤ **The Father honors those who serve and have a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.**

- **Malachi 3:18** Then you shall again discern Between the righteous and the wicked, **Between one who serves God And one who does not serve Him.**

➤ **At the end of the day there are only 2 types of people; those who serve God, and those who do not serve God.**

➤ **Everybody is serving something or someone.**

➤ **Are you currently serving or are you planning to serve?**

➤ **Are you preparing to serve?**

➤ **Are you wanting to serve but just don't know where or how to start?**

➤ **Pray something like, "If You can use anything Lord, You can use me."**

➤ **Pursue God's calling for your life.**

➤ **There is no sacrifice too great for me to make for my Lord.**

➤ **"Do all the good you can, in all the ways you can, to all the souls you can, in every place you can, at all times you can, with all the zeal you can, as long as you ever can." – John Wesley**