

The Rhythm of Serving

Ephesians 4:4-7, 11-16

September 4, 2022

FINDING RHYTHM

LIFE UNDER JESUS' EASY YOKE



We began our teaching series talking about the rhythms of “Being” with Jesus: Sabbath, worship, and prayer, to name a few. This “Being” with Jesus is meant to pour out into our “Doing” for Him. We are called to embrace a rhythm of serving, because 1) it’s who we are, 2) it’s who I am, 3) it’s how we thrive, and 4) it’s who Jesus is. We are the body of Christ, each with a unique gift, designed to grow and mature the body to be more like Jesus. Christianity is not a spectator sport. We are made to be in the game.

1. Read Ephesians 4:4-7, 11-16 aloud. Read it again aloud in another translation.
 - What do I see of God in this text?
 - What do I see of myself and of the human condition in this text?
2. We are the body of Christ. We are the church. Each member belongs to all the others (Romans 12:4-5). Does this differ from your typical view of church? If so, how?
3. What does it mean personally to you to be part of the body of Christ?
4. Every follower of Christ, without exception, has a serving grace or gift which has been given to us by Christ. Do you know what spiritual gifts have been given to you? If so, how did you discover them?
5. Ephesians 4:11-16 describes Paul’s vision for a healthy body of Christ, the church.
 - Name the descriptors of a healthy church.
 - According to these descriptors, are we a healthy church? Where do we need to grow and how do we get there?
6. It was suggested that we often don’t serve in the church, because we are too busy doing everything else. Serving is often not a priority. Would you agree? Why or why not?
7. Studies show that people tend to be much happier when they serve. Where have you found purpose or joy or fulfillment serving in the church (past or present)?
8. Read Mark 10:45. The gospel itself should be incentive to serve. How did Jesus turned the concept of serving upside down?
9. What’s your next step if you aren’t currently serving at Willowdale? Here are some ideas.
 - Take a serious look at your schedule. Where do you need to say no so serving can become a priority?
 - Experiment and discover what you were made for. Try something until you find a fit.
 - Take a spiritual gifts test. One of the ways to discover how God has gifted you is to take a Spiritual Gifts test. It takes about 5-10 min and gives you your top 5 gifts. These may or may not be your *actual* gifts, but they can be used as a starting point to figure out where your niche might be serving at church. <https://giftstest.com/>
 - Join a Discovery Bible Group and begin growing as a disciple. We’ll help you find your niche.