

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

Serving Out of Grace

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor
August 30, 2026



- You cannot fully follow Jesus without serving like Jesus.
- When we serve Jesus, are we mostly saying, “I have to”—or “I get to”?

1) We are Saved & Transformed by Grace...

1 Timothy 1:12-16 (NLT) I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength to do his work. He considered me trustworthy and appointed me to serve him, ¹³ even though I used to blaspheme the name of Christ. In my insolence, I persecuted his people. But God had mercy on me because I did it in ignorance and unbelief. ¹⁴ Oh, how generous and gracious our Lord was! He filled me with the faith and love that come from Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners”—and I am the worst of them all. ¹⁶ But God had mercy on me so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of his great patience with even the worst sinners. Then others will realize that they, too, can believe in him and receive eternal life.

- God's grace is greater than your past.

¹⁴ “Oh, how generous and gracious our Lord was! He filled me with the faith and love that come from Christ Jesus.”

^{15b} ““Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners’ —and I am the worst of them all.”

- Have you accepted God's offer of salvation that leads to Eternal Life?

1 Corinthians 15:9-10 (NIV) “For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.”

- Grace doesn't make us passive – it makes us available.

Dallas Willard “Grace is not against effort—it's against earning.”

- We don't work for God's grace. We work from God's grace.

- What might God want to do through my surrendered life?

2) To Serve through Grace...

Ephesians 3:7 (NLT) “By God's grace and mighty power, I have been given the privilege of serving him by spreading this Good News.”

Big Idea: We don't serve to earn God's grace; we serve because God's grace has transformed us.

How can we apply this?

1. Where have I received grace?
2. Where am I serving from guilt rather than grace?
3. Where is God inviting His grace to flow through me?



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.
To get plugged in email:
impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

Serving Out of Grace
#3 of 6 - August 30, 2026

Context

1. What do we learn about Paul's life and past from 1 Timothy 1:12–16? Why do you think Paul emphasizes what he was like *before* encountering Jesus?
2. In the sermon, we heard that “God’s grace is greater than your past.” What does Paul’s story teach us about who God can save, transform, and use?

Observation

3. Read 1 Corinthians 15:9–10 and Ephesians 3:7. What words or phrases stand out to you about the relationship between grace and serving?
4. What is the difference between serving because “I have to” and serving because “I get to”? What do you think changes inside us when our motivation moves from guilt to grace?

Meaning

5. Dallas Willard said, “Grace is not against effort—it’s against earning.” What does this mean? How can we work *from* God’s grace without accidentally trying to work *for* God’s grace?
6. In the sermon we heard, “The grace we receive becomes the grace we release to others.” What does that look like practically? How should experiencing God’s forgiveness, love, provision, or restoration affect the way we treat and serve other people?

Application

7. Where might you currently be serving—or feeling that you should serve—more from guilt or obligation than from grace? What would it look like to move from “I have to” to “I get to”?
8. Who or where might God be inviting His grace to flow through you right now? What is one specific step of service you could take this week in response to the grace you have received from Jesus?



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