

CHURCH FOR ALL GENERATIONS

WHY I GIVE TO THE CHURCH

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- Treasure
- Time
- Talent
- Touch

Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end. It was time for supper, and the devil had already prompted Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God. So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him... After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, "Do you understand what I was doing? You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because that's what I am. And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you. I tell you the truth, slaves are not greater than their master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends the message. Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them. (John 13:1-5,12-17, NLT)

- Jesus saw what was needed - their feet needed washing.
- There was no 'this is not my job!' He started at the feet - including Judas.
- Underlying mindset of service to others - deep unselfish love and humility.

Even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. (Matthew 20:28, ESV)

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. (John 13:34-35, ESV)

Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honour. (Romans 12:10, ESV)

To be a Christian, then, to belong to the church means to be willing and eager to serve, and then actually to serve. If you are not planning to serve in the life of a congregation, you should not be planning to join it! - Sinclair B Ferguson

- Foundation of caring and loving from being in the presence of Jesus and each other - worship and prayer.
- Doing whatever needs to be done - no matter what you feel your gifts might be. There is always plenty to do! With an attitude of love and humility your gifts will be recognised.

The person who is genuinely busy in the Lord's work cares nothing about whether they are noticed or not, and whether they gain position in the church or not. For Christ-like servants are always taken up with the interests of others, not with their own - Sinclair Ferguson

Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might... (Ecclesiastes 9:10, ESV)

- Don't get offended if your good works seem not to be recognised or appreciated - personal acts of kindness are best done anonymously if possible/appropriate.

Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. "Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. (Matthew 6:1-4, ESV)

- Adopting the Jesus position - humility and service. (Example of Timothy)

For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel. (Philippians 2:20-22, ESV)

Timothy's gift was recognised by others not self promoted.

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. (2 Timothy 1:6, ESV)

Barriers To Doing What We Know We Should Be Doing

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. (Galatians 6:9-10, ESV)

The biggest danger with serving others/church is losing heart. (Luke 18:1)

Every aspect of our Christian life requires perseverance - the flesh will always be a problem. (Romans 7)

Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her. (Luke 10:38-42, ESV)

When Jesus Is 'In My Front Room' - Martha

- Why am I fretting and distracted in the kitchen? (she would have had plenty of help)
- Why am I anxious and worried what others will think?
- Why is my 'to do' list more important than the big picture?

He is in her front room, but Martha is not there - why not? Everything good and productive in our lives will come from 'our view of the foot' - sitting at the feet of Jesus.