



Huddle Up
 Part 2
 June 13, 2021
 Partnership in the Faith

Philippians 2:1-11 – So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ²complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the

name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Last Sunday, I taught about The Plan and our Path forward into our Future as a Church. Today we will discuss our Partnership with the Vision! Our primary focus from now to the end of 2022 will be centered upon two specific points: discipleship and deployment. It is my goal as your Pastor to develop avenues of discipleship and to define avenues of deployment for our Church as a whole to help us to move forward and grow. Everything that we do for the next two years needs will be centrally focused around these two points; discipleship and deployment. Discipleship can be accomplished by many avenues: virtual discipleship, Wednesday night discipleship models, men and women's ministry discipleship avenues as well as avenues of Christian Education. Our deployment, or mobilization if you will, needs to be broken into two factors serving to facilitate the needs of the Church with serving in specific departments in volunteer capacities as well as mobilization in the second factor which is centered on community outreach and community impact. It is my firm belief that we will naturally give and support the vision whenever we are being discipled in the Word of God as followers of Jesus and being mobilized to make a difference in the world around us! The Assembly Family! It is time to shift gears and for us all to collectively lay our hands to the plow!

1. When we partner with the Vision of our Church, we collectively light the path forward for our Church!

- a. Notice the Words of the Writer of Hebrews found in Hebrews 6:10, "For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do."
- b. Church family, the way we serve and love one another as followers of Christ will never be overlooked by Christ!

- c. The way we, who are a part of His Church, tend to and lead within His Church matters to the Heart of God!
- d. The Apostle Paul echoes this sentiment in his letter to the Church in Galatia when he pens the words found in Galatians 6:10, “So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.”
- e. Notice how the Apostle Paul seems to be politely reminding the Galatian Church, as well as us today, that we should do good towards all but we must never take the Household of Faith for granted! The Heart behind our serve should not be for the sake of Conscience but rather for the sake of Christ! We owe our allegiance to Christ and to His Church and in this allegiance should come a duty of every believer, based upon the Word of God, to see the value of helping to share the load and come alongside one another corporately!
- f. The Apostle Paul speaks to this very matter found in His letter to the Church in Colossae found in Colossians 3:23-24, “Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.”
- g. Church Family, when we partner with the Vision of our Church, we collectively light the path forward for our Church because we are serving the Living God and we are loving one another through our service to one another! You can’t say that you love someone if you refuse to serve someone! Our Serve is tied to our Love!
- h. In Galatians 5:13-14, the Apostle Paul writes, ¹³ “For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. ¹⁴ For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”
- i. And if we have been called unto Freedom in Christ in so that we may, through love, serve one another then wouldn’t it seem to reason that when we refuse to serve, we have a “love” problem in our lives? Or more specifically we have a laziness problem.

j. “For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. ¹⁴ For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.””

k. If you truly want to substantiate that you love Christ and His Church then you must be willing to serve Christ within His Church!

2. When we partner with the Mission of the Church, we see the value of our gifts and talents being utilized within the local church body.

a. Our Counselor provides this insight in Proverbs 11:25, “⁵Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.”

b. Some of the greatest opportunities to be refreshed and poured into by the Spirit of Christ is when we bring our gifts, our talents, our abilities, our resources forward to be utilized for His Glory thus watering those around us! And see the truth noted here in this text, the one who waters will himself be watered. If we seek to gain, we must be willing to give what we in turn we need in our lives.

c. The Apostle Peter wrote in 1 Peter 4:10, “¹⁰As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:”

d. Use your gift to serve who? One Another; not yourself! As good stewards of the Gifts that Christ has given us, if we are truly a part of His Kingdom then we must, by virtue of being born again, use our gifts to serve one another thus building up the Household of Faith! We’ve always heard the adage, “it is more blessed to give than to receive” but this is a Biblical principle! This is the very Words of Christ Himself!

e. The Book of Acts 20:35 records, “In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

f. And if Jesus said it then it is a teaching that we all need to discipline ourselves in! We must be willing to give, to serve, to partner in the things of God! We must find our serve!

g. The Gospel of Saint Matthew 20:28, “Even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

h. And if Christ came not to be served but rather to serve, can any of us truly claim to follow Christ and immolate Christ if we refuse to serve like Christ? Jesus came not to be served but rather to serve others! If we truly seek to be a Disciple of Christ then we must demonstrate the Servant Leadership of Christ! Sadly, our modern culture drives a concept that is antichrist in many ways but one point cripples our serve!

i. Far too many feel they can’t serve without a title, or a paycheck, or a public pat on the back, or a position, and if we feel this way then we need to check our hearts because if we desire to be first, if we strive to be first, if we chase after being the greatest then we must call to mind the Words of Christ found in The Gospel of Saint Mark 9:35, “³⁵ And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, “If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.”

j. If you are not a Servant of All then you are Servant to Self and you are not in Christ at All.

3. When we partner with the Heart of the Church, we multiply our impact because our Faith has been accompanied with Action!

a. 1 John 3:18 – ¹⁸Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.”

b. The Apostle John is seeking to disclose the fact that our love is not strictly expressed by our words but by their accompanying deeds. And if we truly love Christ’s Church then we find ourselves demonstrating that love with our deeds within the Church and on behalf of the Church.

- c. Jesus said in the Gospel of Saint Matthew 23:11, “The greatest among you shall be your servant.” Thus it would seem to reason that Christ expects us to be one who serves others as we serve Christ and His Church!
- d. Let us reference the Words of the Apostle Paul found in the Book of Romans 12:9-13, “⁹ Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰ Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.”
- e. Have you noticed a central theme in comparison between the Words of Christ and the Words of His Holy Apostles? Serve. Contribute. Support. Partner. Mutually bare one another’s burdens. Love one another. Do what is good. The Apostle Paul again echoes this central theme in his letter to the Ephesians found in Ephesians 2:10, “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”
- f. We were created for what? We were created in Christ for GOOD WORKS! And Paul goes on to note that we, as being His workmanship, were created for good works which God prepared beforehand. Thus it would be easily surmised that the Father put much forethought into His Gifts and Callings which were placed upon you long before you were in existence! And according to this text, not only were they prepared beforehand but it is expected of us to walk in them! To join our gifts with a willingness to Serve!
- g. Titus 3:8, “The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.”

- h. When we refuse to serve and give, are we not fighting the Will of God for our lives because we are refusing to walk in His plans which He prepared beforehand with the intention for us to, as His workmanship, to walk out good works through Christ Jesus? Are we not fighting the Will and the Plan of God when we refuse His plan?

4. When we partner with One Another as the Church, we touch the Heart of God!

- a. In 2 Corinthians 9:7-9, the Apostle Paul instructed the following, “Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. ⁹ As it is written, “He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.”
- b. When we realize that everything that God has given us for the benefit of using those gifts and resources to impact the lives of others, our entire view of life and faith will change. When we come to the place of embracing the fact that all that we have been given was done for the sake of us abounding in every good work as followers of Christ, our hearts will shift and our lives will truly model Christ in everyday life.
- c. Jesus said in the Gospel of Saint Luke 6:35, “But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.”
- d. Church family, if we intend to take the Light of the Gospel into the darkness of this present age, we must practice the principle recorded in Isaiah 58:10, “if you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday.”

- e. If we are willing to pour ourselves out for the sake of meeting the needs around us and to minister to the afflicted, our light as His Glorious church will arise into the darkness and our gloom shall be driven away by His Marvelous Light! Therefore, today we all have a decision to make... are we going to stay in our pews or are we going to step into His calling and become the hands and feet of Christ in the Earth as His Church? If you are ready to make an impact, if you are ready to partner with me in this Vision and plan for the future, then it's time to commit to find your serve!