

Called To Serve 11-23-2025

November 20, 2025

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Ephesians 4:1-3 NKJV

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Ephesians 4:1-3 NLT

Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.

Recap

1. We were **Created to Serve**
 - a. Genesis 2:15
2. We are **Saved to Serve**

- a. Saved By Grace - Ephesians 2:1-9
- b. Saved For Works - Ephesians 2:10 "For we are His workmanship (Masterpiece NLT), created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."
- c. Salvation takes us back to a "Right Standing Relationship" with God as was intended prior to sin.
- 3. We are each **Given GIFTS to SERVE**
 - a. I Peter 4:10-11 NLT, "As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers (serves), let him do it with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ..."
- 4. Jesus was and IS our Example
 - a. Jesus' purpose in coming to earth was to become the Sacrifice that would take the sins of mankind away.
 - b. Everything else along the way was His TEACHING and EXAMPLES so you and I would know how to live and navigate through this journey calle LIFE

EVERY Christian is CALLED to SERVE

- 1. There is a calling on your life - Ephesians 4:1-3
 - a. It may be a Specific Ministry Calling
 - b. Or, it is a General Ministry Calling to SERVE
- 2. Every Christian is CALLED to pick up the Towel and SERVE
- 3. The Apostle Paul was teaching the the church in Ephesus that they were the ones called to do the work of ministry.
- 4. The CHURCH is called to Minister
 - a. Over and over, Scripture interchanged the word "minister" with "serving"
 - b. Everyone who has accepted Jesus has a part in "waiting" or "serving" the Good News (Gospel) to those who are outside of the Saving Grace of Jesus.
 - c, EX. Fine Restaurant - Valet, Hostess, Waiter, Chef, Kitchen Staff, Bus Staff, etc EVERYONE has a part in ensuring the meal is prepared, served and ultimately consumed
 - d. The Body of Christ has many parts and ALL are important in

sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

The Responsibility of Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers

1. Ephesians 4:11-12 NKJV - Read also NLT
2. For the Equipping of the saints - Equip God's people to do his work
3. For the Edifying of the body of Christ - to build up the church
4. Modern churches have made the Pastor, Teacher, Apostle Evangelist and Prophet a HIRELING
 - a. It became easier to HIRE the work of ministry than to DO the work of ministry
 - b. The Problem - This is Not Biblical
 - c. As a result, we have a shortage of Pastors, and we have Unemployed Christians
5. Jethro's Advice to Moses - Exodus 18:13-27 NLT
6. Acts 6:1-7 The first Deacons are set forth
7. We STIFLE Growth when we do not adhere to the Word of God concerning the Work of the Church and the office of the Pastor, Teacher, Apostle, Evangelist and Prophet.
8. When we STIFLE growth, we Hinder/ INHIBIT the Word of God from reaching it's full potential

How does One BEGIN to SERVE?

1. Seek God
2. Identify your gifts
3. Start Low
4. MAKE TIME
5. Don't wait for someone to ask - Let the Pastor know - Reach out to leadership
6. Don't be overwhelmed - this is God's Work!
 - a. You may feel inadequate or underqualified
 - b. Step out - He will meet you and Help you
 - c. Like Peter, you will fall - GET BACK UP - Keep SERVING!
7. Enjoy! It will be the hardest thing you will LOVE doing at times!



Fill out Ministry Application to Serve at Lakeside!
We have a place for YOU!