

GOD SPEAKS  
The Discipline of Service  
John 13:12-17 NIV  
Week 9 September 8, 2024  
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## THE CALL TO SERVICE

*But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.* Romans 5:8 NIV

If the cross is the sign of submission then the towel is the sign for service.

*15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. 16 Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.* John 13:12-17 NIV

The call to submission can conjure heroic actions taken.  
But the call to service calls us to wash dirty feet.

*Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. 26 Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*  
Matthew 20:25-28 NIV

## SELF-RIGHTEOUS SERVICE VERSUS TRUE SERVICE

**Self-righteous service** comes through human effort calculating and scheming.  
**True service** comes from a relationship with God deep inside.

**Self-righteous service** requires external rewards  
**True service** is content to be unseen.

**Self-righteous service** fractures community because it seeks glory for itself.  
**True service** builds community by serving and caring for the needs of others.

## SERVICE AND HUMILITY

The grace of humility is worked into our lives through the Discipline of Service.

*Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. 16 For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. 17 The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.* 1 John 2:15-17 NIV

We do not seek humility. It comes out of the heartfelt service we give to others.

## YES...BUT

Yes, but what happens if I serve someone and they take advantage of me?

When we choose to be a servant we give up the right to be in charge.

## SERVICE IN THE MARKETPLACE

Service is not a list of things you do, it is an attitude you live.

### There is a service of common courtesy.

Titus 3:2 says to be considerate and gentle.

### There is a service of hospitality.

*Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. 10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.* 1 Peter 4:9-10

### There is a service of listening.

People need compassion and patience to be a good listener.

### There is the service of bearing each other's burdens.

*Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.*  
Galatians 6:2 NIV

### Finally is the service of sharing the word of life.

The gospel is the good news that answers the questions of life that are still being asked today.

The risen Christ calls us to the ministry of the towel flowing out of the joy and peace He gives us to aid our service.