

CALLED TO SERVE

Romans 6:17-18 —“But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, **ye became the servants of righteousness.**”

Romans 6:22 —“But now being made free from sin, and become **servants to God**, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.”

THE PRIVILEGE OF SERVICE:

- **What is a minister?**

- **Ephesians 3:7** — “Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.”
- Greek: “**diakonos**”- to run errands, an attendant, a waiter, a servant
 - Translated “Servant” in Matthew 23:11
 - Translated “Deacon” in 1 Timothy 3:12

Pride is a barrier that will prevent us from being true ministers of the Lord.

- **What are some characteristics of a true servant of the Lord?**

- **2 Timothy 2:24-25** — “And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth.”
- **1 Timothy 4:12** — “Let no man despise thy youth; but **be thou an example** the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity
- **1 Peter 3:10** — “For he that will love life, and see good days, **let him refrain his tongue from evil**, and his lips that they speak no guile.”
- **Romans 12:11** — “**Never lag in zeal** and in earnest endeavor; be aglow and burning with the Spirit, serving the Lord.” (Amplified Bible)

- **Different ways to minister**

- **Praying: Colossians 4:12** — “Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always **labouring fervently for you in prayers**, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.”
- **Ministering the Word: 2 Timothy 3:16-17** — “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is **profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness**: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”
- **Visiting those with needs: James 1:27** — “Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To **visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction**, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.”
- **Comfort and build each other up: 1 Thessalonians 5:11** — “Wherefore **comfort** yourselves together, and **edify** one another, even as also ye do.”

HOW TO SERVE THE LORD IN THE CHURCH

- Remember...Christ is the head of the Church —Col **1:18**; Matt. **10:24**
 - We are His servants and must wait upon Him to properly minister.
- We serve the Lord when we, by the Lord’s guidance, serve one another — Gal. **5:13**
 - A true servant seeks the approval and commendation of his master, Christ Jesus

Matthew 25:21 — “...Well done, thou good and faithful servant...”
Mark 14:8 — “She hath done what she could...”

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- **Deacons:** Acts 6:1-6
 - Take care of the temporal needs (Cleaning the church building, mowing the lawn, visit widows, etc.)
 - Qualifications to serve as a deacon: Acts 6:3; 1 Tim. 3:8-13
- **Elders:** Overseers of the spiritual well-being of those in the local assembly
 - Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-4
 - Qualifications to serve as an elder: 1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9

The young men should be 'elders in training,' realizing one day they may be called upon (by the Lord) to oversee the spiritual well-being of the assembly.

- Some may be called to leave their careers behind and serve the Lord in a larger capacity.
 - **Paul** — Phil. 3:4-8
 - **Apollos** — Acts 18:24; Acts 19:1; 1 Cor. 16:12
 - They depended upon the Lord to supply their needs through His saints
 - Phil. 4:10; 2 Cor. 11:9; 1 Tim. 5:17-18

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO SERVE THE LORD IN HIS CHURCH TODAY?

- **The servant of the Lord serves the Lord and is accountable to the Lord.**
- Pray, as Saul (the Apostle Paul) did immediately upon his conversion, asking the Lord for His guidance
 - **Acts 9:6** — "And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?"
- Learn to follow the faithful ministry of those who scripturally guide you
 - **Hebrews 13:17** — "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."
- There is no one in the church that is without purpose or usefulness
 - **1 Cor. 12: 18-21**
 - **1 Corinthians 12:22** — "Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary."

Matthew 9:37 — "...the labourers are few."

Psalms 100:2 — "Serve the LORD with gladness..."