

Day 1 – The Expectation to Serve

The spiritual discipline of serving is one that is often overlooked. We think of prayer, evangelism, reading the Word, worship, even fasting; but we should also be disciplined and determined to serve. In his book, *Spiritual Disciplines*, Whitney reminds us that “God’s Word has no place for spiritual unemployment or spiritual retirement or any other description of a professing Christian *not* serving God.” As Christians, we are all expected to serve – that’s part of the reason we were set free from sin and death!

Read *Hebrews 9:11-14*.

- In verse 14, what is the reason we are purified from dead works?
(to serve the living God)

Read *Ephesians 2:8-10*.

- How were we saved?
(by grace through faith)
- Why were we saved?
(for good works; that means serving!)

Read *Psalms 100:1-2*.

- What is the first command in verse 2?
(serve the LORD)

Read *Galatians 5:13*.

- What should we do with the freedom we have been given in Christ?
(serve one another)

Even Jesus, the creator and sustainer of the universe, did not exempt himself or use his status to abstain from serving! He is our best example of what is expected of us. If we are united with Christ, we ought to seek to look more and more like Christ. So, what do we know about Jesus and serving?

Read *Mark 10:42-45*.

- What does this passage say Jesus came to do?
(to serve; specifically, Jesus provided the greatest act of service by giving his life so that many would be saved)

We are all expected to serve. Think of ways that you can serve inside and outside the church building; and remember, serving is often sequestered, unnoticed, and thankless, but it is not unnoticed by God (Jn 12:26; Col 3:23-24).

Close by reading *John 13:1-20* together; consider how verses 15-16 apply to you; and pray together that you and your family would find ways to follow the example of Jesus to serve.