

Jesus' entire ministry was focused on taking the vision of the kingdom of God to others and on serving people as a way of demonstrating God's love for all people.

As a church we believe that as disciples of Christ our core goal is to become like Christ and Love God & others just the same. This means that we assert that every person has unlimited value in the eyes of God. As such, every person, no matter how unlike us they are, no matter how much they scare us, no matter how much

they remind us that the world is not okay, is seen through the eyes of Christ.

Serving is at the top of Jesus list of values and convictions he wanted to impart and impress on his disciples above all! Nothing is more like God & Christ than to serve.

God made nature, creation, even Angels to serve humanity! Jesus Served selflessly in giving the Word to people, Love, healing, compassion, food, encouragement and more! We too must mold our hearts to be servants of God by serving others.

Service

Luke 22:25-32- “Jesus said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. You are those who have stood by me in my trials. And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

“Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.”

1 Peter 4:10 “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.”

Galatians 5:13-14- “You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

- In the Luke passage what does Jesus teach his followers they should imitate about him? Who does he make greater? How does that apply to us?
- What does Jesus ask Peter to do after returning as a follower? What does that say about what helps us stay faithful?
- What are some of the things that keep you from serving? How does that effect you and others in the body according to the Galatians passage?
- In the 1 Peter passage when we serve the body what are we REALLY giving people?

Why is service so important?

There are a lot of reasons why a disciple of Jesus Christ needs to turn their life toward service of others and they range from the theological to the personal. Service deepens your relationship with God. In many ways, serving is practicing what you've learned about God. Jesus taught us what the world should look like (the Kingdom of God) and he wants us to live as though it is already present. This means that we are to love and seek the best for others, advocate for respect and justice for the weakest and marginalized, and work for peace in the world. In essence, service is a way that God's love flows through us – in both directions. For it seems that when we meet God, others come along. That is why people so often report that when they are involved in meaningful service, they experience it as a holy time. It allows us to without discrimination give a portion of God's Grace.

- Think of a time when you were involved in really meaningful service. How did that experience deepened your faith?
- How about a time when you were served in a way that brought healing to you? (you were given God's grace by his people)

Service is essential to the Gospel's credibility

We all know the truth of the statement, "You need to not only talk the talk, but also walk the walk." Someone who claims to be a follower of Christ, but then acts without regard for others, or with a sense of entitlement or selfishness, has no credibility. In fact, Christians are primarily judged by the outside world as to whether or not they are fundamentally oriented inward on themselves and their church, or oriented outward to others and their neighborhood.

Periodically, we hear people say, “Isn’t the church suppose to take care of its own people first?” If that were true, then we wouldn’t be the Body of Christ, since Jesus spent his whole ministry living so that others could have abundant life. Rather, as a church we exist so that others might hear of the Gospel and come to experience the limitless love of God. Of course we look after those in our own church community, it too needs to reflect the Kingdom of God. But that does not diminish our call to serve any in need, nor our purpose to take God’s love to the world. Let us renew our resolve to aspire to be the greatest! The greatest servant’s of all...Amen.