



39TH

ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION

**GOD
NEVER
FAILS — LIVE
A LIFE
THAT'S
COMPLETELY
HIS**

AUGUST
26 AND 27
2023

Serve Christ

The central theme of the four chapters of 1 Corinthians revolves around unity. God desires unity among His people (John 17:20-21). One important way to cultivate unity is to engage in mutual service. Even Jesus demonstrated this principle through His own service (Mark 10:45), culminating in His ultimate act of sacrifice for our sins. He calls upon us to extend this spirit of service towards one another. To truly serve others well, we need to follow the example of Jesus.

Serve with the Right Heart (1 Corinthians 4:1-5)

Paul tells us that we are servants of Christ entrusted with sharing the mysteries of God, particularly the Gospel. To serve with the right heart, we need to keep our focus on Jesus. Paul didn't let wrong judgments or criticism bother him, and he wasn't bitter either. He felt secure in Christ because he was serving the Lord. He understood that it is the Lord who judges us. That's why Paul is saying we should focus on Jesus instead of people when we serve. We are not supposed to judge others (Matthew 7:1). We are not to make quick, harsh, self-righteous, untrue, or sudden judgments (John 7:24, Titus 3:2, Luke 18:9-14, Proverbs 19:5, 1 Corinthians 4:5). God will come back and judge everything in the end. He knows what's in our hearts and will expose our wrong motives. When we seek and obey Him, He will transform our attitude and heart in serving others.

Serve in Humility (1 Corinthians 4:6-13)

Serving humbly means acting out of love, regardless of how people respond. Jesus told His disciples that if they want to be prominent and first, they must serve (Mark 10:42-44). The church in Corinth was self-focused and filled with intellectual pride rather than focusing on the Gospel (1 Corinthians 2:2-3). Paul admonished them to look at Jesus — to concentrate on what He accomplished and how it can transform lives.

last week's memory verse

Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.

1 CORINTHIANS 4:1

discuss this message

In what ways are you struggling when it comes to serving other people?

Today we learned that Jesus should be our main motivation in serving others.

What can you do to keep your eyes focused on Jesus when you serve others?

In what ways have you seen God's power at work in your life?

As a recipient of God's transforming power, how does this change your perspective in serving others like Christ?

Knowledge from God should change us. Sometimes, we become proud of what we know and forget that we are servants of Christ, called to love others like He does. Paul was reprimanding the believers because they were fighting due to their knowledge, thinking they were better. People watch us when we serve, and we become a spectacle to the world. Regardless of life's challenges, difficult people we encounter, or the brokenness we experience, let's always choose to humbly serve like Christ and bring honor to His name.

Serve to Build Up (1 Corinthians 4:14-21)

Serving to build up means helping others become more like Christ. Paul's guidance to the Corinthians is like that of a caring father, wanting them to transform into Christ's image holistically. He boldly encourages the church in Corinth to imitate him as he imitates Christ's example. Paul's intention to check on them underscores the importance of accountability. He seeks to determine whether their knowledge and words carry the power of God. While anyone can be trained to speak eloquently, only God possesses the power to transform lives. Paul wraps up 1 Corinthians 4 by telling us that to build others up needs more than just encouragement (1 Thessalonians 5:11). Sometimes, correction is necessary (Hebrews 10:24-25). Both encouragement and correction are tools God uses to shape us to be more like Jesus.

Why must we serve Christ? First, it's His Kingdom — not ours. He is the King and Master. Second, it's the power of God actively at work in our lives (Romans 1:16). We choose to serve Christ because of WHO HE IS, WHAT HE HAS DONE, and WHAT HE WILL DO IN AND THROUGH US.

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September 3, Sunday, 1:00 PM, Room 3A

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What is the best decision you've made in your life?

We make different kinds of decisions, but there is one decision that will impact our eternity.

THERE ARE **FOUR IMPORTANT TRUTHS** THAT WE MUST KNOW:

God loves you and desires that you have eternal life with Him, and an abundant and meaningful life with Him.

"For God loved the world so much that He gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not die but have eternal life." — *John 3:16*

"The thief comes only in order to steal, kill, and destroy. I have come in order that you might have life — life in all its fullness." — *John 10:10*

We have a sin problem that separates us from God.

"...everyone has sinned and is far away from God's saving presence." — *Romans 3:23*

THE BIBLE TALKS ABOUT DIFFERENT KINDS OF DEATH:

"For the wages of sin is death, ..." — *Romans 6:23*

PHYSICAL DEATH

"Everyone must die once, and after that be judged by God." — *Hebrews 9:27*

SPIRITUAL DEATH OR ETERNAL SEPARATION FROM GOD

"But cowards, traitors, perverts, murderers, the immoral, those who practise magic, those who worship idols, and ALL LIARS — the place for them is the lake burning with fire and sulphur, which is the second death." — *Revelation 21:8*

THERE IS ONLY **ONE SOLUTION** FROM GOD.

Jesus Christ is God's only way to eternal life.

HE IS THE ONLY WAY.

"I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one goes to the Father except by Me." — *John 14:6*

HE COMPLETELY PAID THE PENALTY OF YOUR SINS.

For Christ died for sins once and for all, a good man on behalf of sinners, in order to lead you to God. — *1 Peter 3:18*

HIS RESURRECTION PROVES THAT HE IS THE SON OF GOD, THE MESSIAH, THE ONLY SAVIOR.

"It is about His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ: as to His humanity, He was born a descendant of David; as to His divine holiness, He was shown with great power to be the Son of God by being raised from death." — *Romans 13:4*

We must place our faith in Jesus Christ to save us.

WE ARE SAVED BY GOD'S GRACE THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS ALONE.

"For it is by God's grace that you have been saved through faith. It is not the result of your own efforts, but God's gift, so that no one can boast about it." — *Ephesians 2:8-9*

Good works are not the means to salvation, rather they are the evidence of salvation.

WE SHOW OUR FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST BY BEING WILLING TO TURN AWAY FROM SIN, TRUSTING JESUS FOR YOUR FORGIVENESS, AND ACCEPTING HIS GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE THROUGH PRAYER.

"For sin pays its wage — death; but God's free gift is eternal life in union with Christ Jesus our Lord." — *Romans 6:23*

"He rescued us from the power of darkness and brought us safe into the kingdom of His dear Son, by whom we are set free, that is, our sins are forgiven." — *Colossians 1:13-14*

GOD PROMISED THAT YOU CAN KNOW TODAY THAT YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE WHEN YOU TRUST IN JESUS.

"These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life." — *1 John 5:13*

ARE YOU WILLING TO MAKE THE DECISION TO TRUST AND FOLLOW JESUS AS YOUR LORD AND SAVIOR?

Pray this in faith:

Lord Jesus, thank You so much for loving me. I confess that I have sinned against you. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. Today, I repent of my sins and put my trust in You as my Lord and Savior. I accept your free gift of eternal life and I surrender my life to You. Thank You for forgiving my sins. From this day on, I choose to follow You. Amen.

IF YOU JUST PRAYED TO RECEIVE JESUS, YOUR ETERNAL LIFE WITH GOD BEGINS TODAY! ALL OF YOUR SINS ARE PAID FOR AND FORGIVEN, YOU ARE A NEW PERSON IN GOD'S EYES, AND YOU BECAME A CHILD OF GOD!



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