

## SERVE CHRIST

AUG 20, 2023

## WORSHIP

All Because of Jesus, King  
Jesus, Firm Foundation (He  
Won't), Yet Not I But Through  
Christ in Me, Unending Love

## WELCOME

How would you describe  
a service done excellently  
(a 5-star kind of service)?

## WORD

**1 Corinthians 4:1-2**

(READ UNTIL VERSE 21 FOR  
CONTEXT)

Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. <sup>2</sup> In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy.

**Mark 10:42-45**

<sup>42</sup> Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. <sup>43</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>44</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. <sup>45</sup> For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

The theme of the first four chapters of 1 Corinthians is about unity. We need to be one. We need to love one another. God wanted His people to be one (**John 17:20-21**)—every family and every church united.

Another way to maintain this unity is for us to serve one another. Our calling is to serve each other. Even Jesus came to serve us (**Mark 10:45**). He died for our sins, His ultimate act of service. He wants all of us to serve one another as well.

But we have a problem. As we serve others, we have the tendency to serve ourselves: not willing to listen, easily hurt when not considered, often think we are correct, easily offended when rebuked, keeps comparing ourselves to others, not willing to adjust, always blames others, not willing to apologize, unforgiving, not serving at all. We need to check our hearts if we are doing it the right way or are we doing it for ourselves.

The best way to serve is to SERVE CHRIST as we serve one another:

**I. SERVE WITH THE RIGHT HEART (1 Corinthians 4:1-5)**

Paul says we are servants of Christ who steward the mysteries of God which is the gospel (**v.1**). To serve with the right heart means that as we serve, we fix our eyes on Jesus. Majority of our disappointments happen when we look at people. We need to be trustworthy servants who do what God wants us to do (**v.2**). Paul wasn't affected by wrong judgment and criticism nor bitter about it (**v.3**). He was secure in Christ because he was serving the Lord. The One who examines us is the Lord (**v.4**). When we fix our eyes on Jesus, any insecurities we feel suddenly are washed away. The problem is the world feeds that insecurity. That's why Paul is saying not to look at people when we serve. We need to fix our eyes on Jesus. We are not to judge (**v.5, Matthew 7:1**). We are not to make superficial (**John 7:24**), harsh (**Titus 3:2**), self-righteous (**Luke 18:9-14**), untrue (**Proverbs 19:5**), and abrupt (**1 Corinthians 4:5**) judgment. God will eventually come back and there will be an ultimate judgment. God knows what's in our heart and He will expose our wrong motives. He will help you change and have the right motive or heart.

**II. SERVE IN HUMILITY (1 Corinthians 4:6-13)**

To serve in humility means that no matter how people respond, you're going to do it out of love. Jesus said to the disciples that whoever wants to be prominent and first, must serve (**Mark 10:42-44**). It's a mindset or perspective that we are here to serve.

The church in Corinth had intellectual pride (**vv.6-7**). The focus should have been the gospel (**1 Corinthians 2:2-3**). Paul was focused to help people look to Jesus—to focus on what He has done, and experience transformed lives. The knowledge that God has given

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us should transform our lives. Sometimes, we take pride on what we know that we forget we are servants of Christ and we are to love others like Him. Serve one another as we serve Christ. Paul was rebuking the believers because they were fighting because of their knowledge thinking they were superior (v.8). He responded by being a model on how to respond the right way (vv.9-10). People are looking when we serve, a spectacle to the world. Even in difficult situations, we will not give up serving (vv.11-13). No matter how difficult life may get, how much challenging people are, or how much brokenness God will allow us to experience, always choose to serve Christ with your all.

### III. SERVE TO BUILD UP (1 Corinthians 4:14-21)

To serve to build up means that as we serve, we help others become Christ-like. The best version of yourself and of your family members is Christ-likeness. That is the ultimate goal. Paul is admonishing, which means to build up or to strengthen in Greek, the Corinthians (vv.14-15). He is speaking as a spiritual father who is concerned with their whole being—that they become more like Christ. He is not just a tutor who is concerned with just one aspect of their life. He then boldly says to them to imitate him as he follows Christ (v.16). He has a lot of security in Christ. He was modeling Christlikeness to these people. The best way to help other people become Christ-like is we become Christ-like. We live it out.

Paul was so intentional with this that he wanted to check up on them (v.17). Accountability is important (vv.18-19)! He wants to know if the knowledge and the words that they say have the power of God. Anyone can be trained to be an excellent and eloquent speaker, but only God has the power to transform lives. We need God's power. He ends in vv.20-21 that in order to help others become like Christ, it's not just always encouragement (1 Thessalonians 5:11). Rebuke (Hebrews 10:24-25) is necessary sometimes. Encouragement and rebuke from people are God's tools to grow us to become more like Jesus.

Why do we need to serve Christ? First, it is His Kingdom not our kingdom (v.20). He is the King and Master. Second, it is the power of God that has been working in our life (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.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

#### 1. Self-Check.

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

#### 2. Setting It Right.

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?

#### 3. Living It Out.

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

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

### WORKS

#### PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for loved ones to come to know Jesus personally as God and Lord who became a servant to the point of death for all of us. Serve others with the right heart, in humility, and to build them up. Ask them how you can best serve them and do it. This week, share to someone who Jesus is and what He has done and continues to do in your life.

### WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

#### I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives.

#### II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of public servants; repentance and salvation for government leaders and citizens for a Christ-centered Philippines.
- God's help and comfort for the residents of Lahaina (Maui, Hawaii) who lost family, homes, businesses in devastating wildfire; for thousands of residents of British Columbia, Canada who need to evacuate from life-threatening wildfires
- War in Ukraine to end, loss of lives prevented; conflict in African, East Asian and Middle East countries to stop.

#### III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples.
- Elders, pastors, deacons, and families (holy, humble, harmonious, happy, heart-working).
- Ministries and churches expansion worldwide.

#### IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

#### V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God.
- Righteous living.
- Salvation of family and friends

### MEMORY VERSE

#### 1 CORINTHIANS 4:1

<sup>1</sup> Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.