

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

*“One of the principal rules of religion is, to lose no occasion of serving God. And, since he is invisible to our eyes, we are **to serve him** in our neighbor; which he receives as if done to himself in person, standing visibly before us.” —John Wesley*

Disciples Are Called to Serve in the Right Way

*“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” (Mark 10:45).*

*“In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of **a servant**” (Philippians 2:5–7).*

*“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**” (Gal 5:13).*

*“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” (Mark 10:45). John 13:1-17 Jesus washes feet.*

1. Why did Jesus wash the disciple’s feet?

2. What is a Christian?

- a) Someone who is a **child** of God John 1:12
- b) Someone who not just **follows** Christ, but **lives** like Him. “God called you to **endure suffering** because Christ suffered for you. He left you an example so that you could **follow in his footsteps**.” 1 Peter 2:21 How do you LIVE like him? Are you just a fan of Jesus? Does your admiration of Him lead to change? What areas of your life have and haven’t you turned over Him?
- c) Someone who not only follows, lives, but **submits to the Lordship** of Christ in their life. He tells you what to do and you do it! What has he told you to do? You form your habits, then your habits from you! Plan wisely!

3. How do we live like Jesus? **In our salvation, sanctification, service A.C.T.**
Accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior **Repent** and **Believe**—Mk 1:14, 15—
Salvation

Choose the narrow way—sanctify them with the truth John 17: 17-**Sanctification**

World—Am I believing its value system? Is it telling me how to spend my time and money? Who am I treating like God in my life, allowing them/it to advise me?

Flesh—Am I being carried away by my own sinful desires? Which nature is leading me? *“For all that is in the world, the **lust of the flesh** and the **lust of the eyes** and the boastful **pride of life**, is not from the Father, but is from the world.” 1 Jn 2:16*

Devil—What bad habits am I not dealing with? What lies are you believing?

- Faith comes by hearing the word of God not feeling the word of God. Don’t be led by your feelings. They make terrible masters, leading you to make mistakes.
- Be led by the facts from the word of God. Psalm 37 is a good example. *“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right” (2 Tim 3:16).*

Teach the disciples to obey all the commandments—Matt 28:20—**Service**

- 1) When serving God, keep in mind that service must be done with a loving and holy heart. If not, you will become a Pharisee.
- 2) When serving God, keep in mind that service must be done with the end in mind—making disciples; and the best disciples know the word well and use it wisely. Don’t make a name for yourself make one for Jesus!

4. Conclusion: **Following Jesus = Living like Jesus.**

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It’s clear that Jesus came to serve. It could be argued from Mark 10:45 that his entire life **was one continuous act of service**. It’s also clear that those who **follow** Jesus are expected to **act** like Jesus. Does your following him include living like him? Or are you just going through the motions of being a good Christian?

Questions for discussion:

1) Have you accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior? If not, why? What will it take to convince you? What questions do you still have? Seek the answers.

2) What area of your life are you holding back? What “closet” do you need to clean out? Have you been serving Jesus, but with the wrong motives and morality?

3) What do you need to do to be bolder in your work/witness? How can you equip yourself better? What are your spiritual gifts? Are you using them? Why not?

4) TO DO: Talk to someone this week that can help you to take the next step. Accountability is key. Take a spiritual gifts survey test and do the follow-ups:

<https://www.lifeway.com/en/articles/women-leadership-spiritual-gifts-growth-service>

Spiritual Gifts Assessment Tools

[Spiritual Gifts Survey](#) (Discovery Tool)

[Spiritual Gifts List](#) (List of Gifts and Scripture References)

[Where do you feel God leading you to serve Him?](#) (Discovery Tool)

5) Pray for the Lord’s help in accomplishing the above tasks. Ask your honest questions to Him now. Join the 40 Day Prayer Journey.

Virtues of the Christian Faith

8/8/2020

1. **Love:** Unconditional/sacrificial concern/loyalty for the well-being of others.

2. **Joy:** Deep, internal godly gladness often externally expressed by rejoicing.

3. **Peace:** Absence of tension/conflict and deep assurance of God’s presence.

4. **Patience:** Longsuffering within trials without complaining or getting angry.

5. **Kindness:** Compassion in action. Benevolent friendliness in words/deeds.

6. **Goodness:** Righteousness in action. Choosing and following moral good.

Doing what is right, a summation of His divine nature and character.

7. **Faithfulness:** Reliable, steadfast, unwavering, remaining true to God’s Word and calling-- keeping promises and persevering in the midst of trials; can be trusted. *“Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast and immovable. Always excel in the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”* I Corinthians 15:58

8. **Gentleness:** Calm and non-threatening; sensitivity and tenderness in treating others. Humility and thankfulness toward God, and polite, restrained behavior toward others. Meekness (not weakness)—strength under God’s control. *“I am gentle and humble...”* Matthew 11:29

9. **Self-Control:** Surrendering control of our lives to the Holy Spirit in order to overcome wrong desires and behaviors, being in the world not of the world. Getting the boat into the water without getting the water into the boat. *“Walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires...”* Gal 5:16

10. **Forgiveness:** To pardon or remove guilt, removing our need to get revenge. It means graciously and generously canceling a debt. Col 2:14

11. **Perseverance:** It’s a continued effort to do or achieve something despite difficulties, failure, or opposition. To **follow Jesus**, even when **He leads us** to and through harrowing times. We **cling to God** because **He holds us** firmly in His hands. John 10:28; Deuteronomy 33:27

12. **Hope:** A strong and confident expectation in the promises of God from His Word *“The glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory”* Col 1:27 “ *“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.* Jeremiah 29:11

Working it Out:

1) Which Fruit of the Spirit do you feel you need to work on the most? Explain.

2) What steps are you going to take to see it fulfilled in your life? See the message

3) Being a disciple is **knowing** Jesus, **growing** more like Jesus, and **going** for Jesus, serving others and making disciples. How does improving your character help you become better and doing any or all of these? How can others pray for you?

4) What would you say to someone who really wants to grow in their faith, but doesn’t know where to start? What advice would you give them? Scripture?

5) Kindness challenge: Do one kind thing for someone every day for the next 40 days. For example: Text a word of encouragement; have a meal; pray with them; offer to babysit free of charge; run an errand...; witness to a friend, dinner, etc.

6) Do you agree or disagree with this: “The hardest part about being a Christian is succeeding at living out your theology.” Truth shows through character.

7) What does it take to walk by the Spirit of God? Three things. See James 4:6-8

8) Which spiritual gifts do you think you have? What have others confirmed?

9) What do you think the Lord is telling you to do with your character and gifts?

10) What will it take for you to keep your sanctification and service in order?