

"For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another."

Galatians 5:13

## "How May I Help You?"

### Serve One Another – Galatians 5:13

I own my own home and I like to do work on it.

We have plans to update the bathroom and kitchen, finish the basement, and install some landscaping. I enjoy having renovation projects because it gives me a chance to go shopping for some new toys. Some men turn into boys when they enter a home improvements store. I am one of those men.

I do have my preference which store I go to. Because I do not want to hurt anyone's feelings I will not tell you the name of this home improvement store that has a lot of orange and no blue. I love walking through the aisles and figuring out new projects I could do, if only I had the money. It is not long, maybe only two minutes, before someone comes up in their orange, not blue, apron and asks, "How may I help you? Is there something I can help you find?"

Now get this, when I tell them what I am looking for, they take me to it and pull it off the shelf for me. Other places have a tendency to point me to the other end of the store and tell me it's down on one of those aisles, and then they disappear.

Maybe I am being just a little dramatic, but some places are more famous for their service than they are for their product.

Lambert's Café is one of those places. I think there are only three, but this place is a wonderful place to eat. When you ask for a roll they will throw it to you from across the store. I am convinced that no one has ever walked out of this place hungry.

Is there a place that you enjoy going to because of the service? What do you like about the service?

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Service is a big thing. We want the product we paid for and we want it from a smiling face. I have known companies to lose money because they were not good at service.

Get your towel and roll up your sleeves because God calls us to serve.

Paul explains that we are now free, but it is a freedom to serve others. Did you catch what we are to serve through? Love. It all goes back to the love that God wants to work through us. Our service is an outpouring of our love.

Peter encourages us to use our gifts to serve others (1 Peter 4:10). As we use our gifts to serve, we are being good stewards of what God has entrusted us with.

How are you using your gifts to serve in the church?

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"As each one has received a special gift, employ it in **serv**ing **one another** as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."  
1 Peter 4:10

Notice that there are no conditions on our service. We are simply to serve whether someone notices or not.

Let's look at an example of serving one another. John records this example in thirteenth chapter of his gospel. Read verses one through seventeen.

Describe in your own words what act of service took place.

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The disciples had come in for the Passover feast. It was a room that they rented, so there was no host to wash their feet as they came in. Remember that the roads were dirt and their shoes were sandals. Their feet would have been dirty, but not just because of dust. There would have been all kinds of junk and nasty stuff on their feet. Who knows how many times they stepped in camel dung or possibly sewage along the road. Either way, their feet were dirty and no one wanted to clean them.

No one, that is, except Jesus.

Jesus removed his outer garments and stooped down to wash the disciple's feet. Would you have done it?

I would have had a hard time washing their nasty feet, but Jesus did it and then tells us to do it. He says "This is an example of the kind of service I am asking each of you to do." Jesus then explains that we are all equal. There are no differences when it comes to serving, as we all are to serve.

Have you ever seen trash on the ground and felt an urge to pick it up? Then maybe you thought, "That's not my job?" You are right. It's not your job, it's your responsibility.

Describe a recent time of when someone went out of their way to serve you even though it was not their job?

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How did you feel about it?

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I am humbled when someone serves me. I am thinking that I do not deserve this kind of service and I am right. I do not deserve it, but they are not serving because I deserve it, but because Christ has called us to serve.

You will find this in common with all of the "one another" passages. We are called to serve one another not because of the persons we serve, but because of the Person we serve. Did you get that?

We are to serve because Christ served, regardless of the people we are serving.

I am feeling convicted. I need to find some feet to wash. Are you with me?

What do you need to do in response to this lesson?

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