

Lesson C13 – What Christians Stand For – SERVICE

There are times in our lives where we will serve others and times when others will serve you.

1. Think of some times when other people serve you...
2. Think of some time when you have had to serve others...
3. Which do you prefer - serving others or being served? Why do you think that is?

The world today is not that much different that the world in Jesus' day. Sure, they didn't have iPhones, the internet, or cars. But there were rulers and there were servants.

Read Matthew 20:25-28

²⁵ Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ²⁶ Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wants to be first must be your slave-- ²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Jesus says, "If you want to become _____, you must become a _____."

This isn't just something that Jesus said. He lived it out. **Read John 13:3-15.**

Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; ⁴ so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵ After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷ Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." ⁸ "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." ⁹ "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

¹⁰ Jesus answered, "A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." ¹¹ For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

¹² When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. ¹³ "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

4. Looking back at **Matthew 20:28**, what was Jesus' ultimate act of service?

On the cross, Jesus served you and me by taking our place and by dying our death. For everyone who believes in Jesus Christ, we have been set free from sin and guilt and shame.

Read Galatians 5:13-14

¹³ You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. ¹⁴ The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

5. How should Jesus followers use the freedom Jesus won for us on the cross?

Do you have chores at your house? Is there anything your parents ask you to do around the house that you really don't like doing?

Serving others can be difficult, especially when you would rather be doing something else. Serving those in authority over us is so important to God that He made it a commandment. In the 4th Commandment, the Lord instructs us to: **Honor your father and your mother.**

Martin Luther in his small catechism expands on commandment by trying to answer *What does this mean?* He writes: **We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.**

6. So...when we serve our parents, who are we really serving?

When we listen to and follow the instructions of our teachers, we are we obeying?

When we follow the laws of this country, who are we really obeying?

We honor and love God when we _____ those is _____ over us!

Now is when it really gets crazy. Are you ready for this? Read **Matthew 25:31-46**

Jesus told his disciples, ³¹ "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

³⁴ "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

³⁷ "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

⁴⁰ "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

⁴¹ "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴² For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

⁴⁴ "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'

⁴⁵ "He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.' ⁴⁶ "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

7. Jesus seems to saying that when we do anything for someone else here on earth, in all actuality, who are we serving?
8. Go back to verses 35-36. What are some of the acts of service listed by the King? Do these acts of service sound like hard things to do or easy?

Now read **Philippians 2:3-5**

³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. ⁴ Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus...

The Key of Serving others is to putting the _____ of others _____.

That's what Jesus did for you and for me. He thought of us first when he laid down his life for us. And that's our challenge as Jesus followers, to love one another as Jesus has loved us (John 15:12).

The Bible puts it this way in **Ephesians 6:7**

Serve _____, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, ⁸ because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free.

And again in **1 Peter 4:10**

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to _____ others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

9. What is one area in your life that you can serve wholeheartedly and more willingly? Ask the Lord to help you serve the Lord with gladness!