

“Returning to God through Service”

Matthew 5:13-16

Introduction

We have a computer network in operation on our church campus. This network only functions because of its servers. Servers enable the computers to communicate with each other so that all campus computers "can be on the same page." Our capacity to maximize our campus productivity is enhanced because our servers are in place doing their jobs. God wants a networked campus of hearts who love Him and who love one another because they are networked by servers—men and women who give of themselves because they have received the manifold grace of God.

As believers, we are called to be a network of servants to God through our visible and verbal presence and influence in society. When we do not have influence and a Godly presence on the earth, we have become useless Christians. Believers serve God as salt. We are to preserve the earth as a repellent to the bacteria and viruses of evil that plague the earth through our presence and work on the earth. When believers are connected to the network of service for the Lord, they create spiritual thirst on earth. Unfortunately, far too many Christians are being walked on by the world rather than making a difference in the world. A Christian that has no impact on the world is useless to the kingdom.

When plugged into the network, believers are illuminated as the light of the earth. As the light, we are to help people see things more clearly because we are influencing them in the right way or the righteous way. Believers bring truth and a witness to the world to give clarity and a clear vision to God's people.

Our relationship with God should be seen as we benefit people in His name. A part of bringing God's truth and witness to His people starts with believers who don't just talk about good things but serve God through good works. When we do good works, it's different from just doing good things; good works are representative of God our Father. Our relationship should be visible as we help people in His name and that's the difference between good things and good works.

Getting Started

What do you do regularly to serve God through your visible and verbal presence?

How do you feel after serving someone else with your time, talents, or gifts?

Let's Get Personal

1. In what ways have you squandered a gift that could be used to serve God?

2. What spheres of influence do you have access to? Do you find yourself being salt and light in these spheres? Why or Why not?
3. When was the last time you shared your testimony as a spiritual witness to the world? Was your relationship with God evident? How did this benefit those who heard your testimony?

Take the Next Step

What new truth did you learn about servanthood?

How can you incorporate a servanthood mindset into your day-to-day life?

What will you do to expand your spiritual influence?

Want to go deeper? Take time to look at the following passages: Luke 14:34-35; Colossians 4:6; Titus 2:7; Titus 2:14; Titus 3:8; Titus 3:14; 1 Peter 2:12; I Corinthians 10:31; Ephesians 5:8; Ephesians 5:13

Renew Your Mind

*“Our people must also learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs so that they will not be unproductive.
Titus 3:14*
