

Faith Christian Fellowship
Sunday, February 28, 2016
Members of One Another
4: Where Should I Serve?

Text: Romans 12:4-5 / 1 Peter 4:10-11

God wants us to have a covenant, family relationship with a local church Body. We need to be connected to other believers. 3 aspects of what it means to be a member: I'm a Christian, I'm connected, and I'm a servant. Today we continue with, I'm a servant, now where do I serve?"

1) Service is why we are here –

- a) Jesus gives us the example. Matthew 20:26-28
- b) I am free from the law, FREE TO SERVE. Galatians 5:13-14
- c) Having a gift obligates me to serve others. 1 Pet 4:10-11.

Questions: Everyone is gifted either to speak or to serve some other way. Which one are you? Why do you think so? 1 Pet 4:10-11

- d) My part, your part, all the parts, are designed by God for a purpose, to do what He thinks is necessary. He is always right!
 - i) He puts you where He needs you, not where you think it would be cool to be – Eph 2:10b MSG He creates ...us to join him in the work he does, the good work he has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing.
 - ii) He puts you where you are best suited. 2 Tim 2:1 NLT be strong through the grace that God gives you in Christ Jesus.
 - iii) He gifts you where He puts you - 1 Corinthians 12:11b NLT He alone decides which gift each person should have.
 - iv) He blesses you where He plants you - Ps 92:13 Those who are planted... Shall flourish.... / Pr 27:8 MSG
 - v) His plans work best when each member does its part. Ephesians 4:16 NLT ... As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

Questions: What are the three biggest obstacles to serving in ministry? Take the number one issue on your list and identify one step you can take to remove it, or at least reduce its impact.

2) Finding your place: Follow your passion:

- a) A passion is something that just won't go away, that stirs you even when you rather it didn't. 1 Cor 9:16-17 / Jer 20:9
- b) A passion to pray, even for a specific people. Col 4:12-13
- c) A passion for giving and/or fundraising. 2 Cor 9:2
- d) Passion for the house of God's integrity and reputation. Jn 2:17

e) Gifts and callings will show up in what you see that others don't.

Questions: What things really bother you that your friends don't seem to notice? What can you do to remedy those situations? Be specific.

- f) A God-given passion arises seemingly of itself and stays in you over time. It is not always directly correlated with your talent.
 - i) When you talk about it, do you get worked up?
 - ii) Do you enjoy doing it?
 - iii) Does it bother you when it is not done well?

Questions: Can you name three things that you are passionate about? You don't have to be spiritual. (I am passionate about chili peppers) Of these three which one is especially suited to serving the Lord? Jer 20:9 / Titus 2:14

3) Your place finding you: Compassion is a legitimate motivation

- a) Helping the disturbed and distressed, in this case the unchurched. Matthew 9:36
- b) Compassion was designed to move you, not just make you sad.

Questions? Are there particular people, age groups or those with specific problems, that really touch you when you see them? What is one thing you could do this week to help someone in that group? Write it down and go do it!

- i) Jesus's response to this compassion was to built a team to get it done. Your talents can be adapted to fit the need.

Questions: Name three talents or gifts that you see in yourself. How can you use your gifts to alleviate the difficulty of someone around you this week? Rom 12:1-8

- c) Compassion for healing; Matthew 14:14 / Mark 1:41
- d) Jesus is not a cook or a grocer, but He uses His team-building gifts to feed 4000. Mark 8:2
- e) Compassion moves us to help those in trouble even if it is not "my ministry" Luke 10:33
- f) Compassion is a motive to pitch in when help is needed
 - i) I can decide to respond by using my gifts to help out until someone "called" comes along.
 - ii) Look around for someone with a passion and encourage them to step up to serve. Heb 10:24 MSG Let's see how inventive we can be in encouraging love and helping out,

Question: Look around. Who can you name who doesn't seem to be involved in service? Can you see abilities in their lives? Pray for them to get involved, and be alert to the Spirit to give you ideas to reach out and encourage them to love and good works.