

Living a Life Worthy of Your Calling

If you ask the world What is the secret to greatness? Wall Street would say, "Money and lots of it." Washington would say, "Political clout and a lot of it." Hollywood would say, "Fame and lots of it." Yet, the greatest man who ever lived, the man who probably alone deserves to be called "GREAT" in every sense of the word, Jesus Christ, had a very different answer. Jesus declared in Matthew 20:26, "Whoever wants to become great must be a servant to others." Jesus proclaimed to us in Mark 10:45, "For even I didn't come to be served, but to serve others". An important question to reflect on is are you more interested in being served in the church or are you more interested in being a servant of Christ as the church? A 1st grade teacher asked her students, "What do you do to help at home?" One said, "I dry the dishes." One, "I feed the dog." Another said, "I sweep the floor." Everybody answered, but one little boy was sitting in the back. He didn't say anything. The teacher looked at him and said, "Stewart, what do you do to help out at home?" He said, "I stay out of the way!" There are far too many church members in churches today who just try to stay out of the way. A Gallup Poll discovered that only 10% of church members are active in any kind of personal ministry in their church. What was even more amazing is that 50% of all church members said they have absolutely no interest in serving in any ministry of the church. They just want to show up for worship when they feel like it and when it is convenient to them. Truly, it is an issue of Christian maturity. Mature Christians are interested in service. Immature Christians are interested in serve-me. The Bible clearly teaches that every saved Christian is a minister and should be involved in ministry. Every Christian is called to be a minister for Christ!

When you study the Bible, you will find the word "ministry" is the same as the word "service" and the word "service" is the same as the word "ministry." In the Bible, a minister is simply a servant. One of the most misunderstood words of our day is the word "minister", because people wrongly use it as a synonym for someone like me who is ordained or theologically trained as a Pastor/Clergy. The word "minister" derives from the Latin word for "servant" and is based on the root word "minus" which means "less". Technically, a "minister" is a Christian who, by choice, is of a "lesser" rank or status, who simply wants to serve. God has a ministry of service for every Christian to do. God has a service He wants you to perform. That is why the same grace of God that enables us to be saved is the same grace of God that enables us to serve. According to scripture, God's people assume "the work of service?" That means the ministry of the church does not belong to the pastor, it belongs to the congregation.

Do you have the attitude of a servant? The reason I asked is quite frankly, it is against our nature to want to serve others. When the average person looks for a church, do you know the question they are usually asking? "How can this church meet MY needs?" When you begin to really mature as a Christian, you will begin to ask instead, "How can I be used in this church to meet the needs of others?" The Rev. Rick Warren said people are so obsessed with living as long as they can, so they watch their diet, they exercise, they take vitamins, but he said that is not the real issue. It is not how long you live that matters. It is how you live that matters. It is not the duration of your life that matters, It is the donation of your life that counts. I Corinthians 15:58 implores us to, "Keep busy in your work for the Lord since you know that nothing you do in the Lord's service is ever without value."

Imagine you have died and have been in heaven (by earth standards) for 50 years. Somebody comes up to you and says, "I just want to thank you for what you have done for me." You look at that person and say, "I am sorry. I don't think I know you." Then they say, "No, you didn't know me, but I knew you. You were a servant of Christ in the church. You performed a ministry in the church. It was through that ministry that I came to know Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior, and you had a part in making sure that I got to heaven. I just wanted to thank you." There is no work too small that God doesn't notice it, and God doesn't reward it. Will you commit to living a life worthy of your calling? Will you be the minister/servant that God is calling you to be?