

Serving

Created to Serve: Jesus came to serve, not to be served and he called us to love one another with the same love he has for us. In our serving, we become what God intends for us to be – a blessing! We use what God has given us to let our lights shine for God, we bring God glory. In this way, our soul's deepest longings are expressed when we serve.

Describe a time when you served others and walked away having the sense that you had received much more than you had given.

Serving God's People: *"Whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."* Mark 10:43-45 The power of the local congregation is not to be measured simply by the visible gathering of its people. It is measured also by the way its people expand and extend the kingdom of God into a world of skepticism, loneliness, and need. The service we give in the congregation, whether highly visible or relatively hidden, spreads the truth of God through the best witness possible—the lives of those who we touch by the power of God's Holy Spirit.

Describe the joy you have felt by serving in a congregation. What ministries of service are yet to be discovered in our congregation?

Meeting Real Needs within the Church: When we serve and meet real human need through and within the congregation, we change the world, one situation at a time. That's where the effectiveness of the congregation comes in. Few organizations know their neighborhoods and ministry areas as well as most congregations. If that knowledge can connect the service of Christian disciples within that church to those needs, there can be a rebirth of hope and vitality, care and compassion that is incredible.

How can service in the congregation really have the power to change the world for others?

Bringing Justice into the Lives of Others: The Mark of Service takes seriously that it is essential to the Christian church to live beyond itself. The church that lives to serve only its members has stopped being a church and has become a club. The vision of God is for a people and an institution that changes the world for good. As people of the Savior, we are called not only to tell about our faith; we are called to live our faith by working for the betterment of their lives and the community.

How can we work for justice in our community without becoming bogged down in politics?

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." - John 13:34-35

