

Renewed Service

All Things New #12 | 1 Peter 4:7-11

March 20, 2022

1 Peter 4 ⁷The end of all things is near; therefore, be alert and sober-minded for prayer. ⁸Above all, maintain constant love for one another, since love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹Be hospitable to one another without complaining. ¹⁰Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve others, as good stewards of the varied grace of God. ¹¹If anyone speaks, let it be as one who speaks God's words; if anyone serves, let it be from the strength God provides, so that God may be glorified through Jesus Christ in everything. To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

Pre-Sermon Remarks

- Renewal: personal, relational, practical
- Upcoming: Leviticus

PRAYER

Introduction

- Q: eaten out recently? Used to be "waiter" is now "server"
 - What a privilege. For most of human history, that was only royalty.
 - A couple of friends who work in food service, stories of being treated terribly

What does it mean to serve? | biblical survey: Hb. *abad*, Gk. *doulos*

Serve: heartfelt activity in a clearly defined role for the blessing of another.

1. Work/activity | this should be obvious: work, effort, action
2. Heartfelt | sincerity, gladness
3. Defined role | judge, prophet, priest, apostle, elder, deacon, bring order to disorder
4. To bless another | sometimes need-based, but sometimes not. Sometimes they tell you what they want, other times you just show up and serve
 - a. Back in Alaska, friend just showed up and plowed my driveway

I. Created to Serve | 1 Peter 4:10-11

¹⁰Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve others, as good stewards of the varied grace of God. ¹¹If anyone speaks, let it be as one who speaks God's words; if anyone serves, let it be from the strength God provides, so that God may be glorified through Jesus Christ in everything.

1. Work / activity | obvious
2. Defined role | "good stewards" (reminds of Adam & Eve in the garden)
3. Bless another | "glorifying God" and serving others (always both/and)
4. Heartfelt joyful | language of "gift" (kid who loves mom), also in "varied grace"

We were created to serve, not because God is needy but because it is a blessing.

But, if we were given these instructions, what does it imply? **Failure to serve.**

Distorted Serving

1. Laziness, not activity | missing the element of work, God-given energy
2. Business, not fruitfulness | missing the element of order
3. Self-focus, not others | subtle “religious serving,” more about you than them
4. Heartless, not joyful

Hannah Whitall Smith Certain things, which at the first may have been a joy and a delight, become after a while weary tasks, performed faithfully, perhaps, but with much secret disinclination...The soul finds itself saying, instead of the “may I” of love, the “must I” of duty...You have known of course that this was the wrong way to feel, and have been thoroughly ashamed of it, but still you have seen no way to help it.

What a mess. Something so beautiful becoming so distorted. So what do we do? Renewal by the gospel.

II. Redeemed by Serving

⁷The end of all things is near; therefore, be alert and sober-minded for prayer. ⁸Above all, maintain constant love for one another, since love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹Be hospitable to one another without complaining. ¹⁰Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve others, as good stewards of the varied grace of God. ¹¹If anyone speaks, let it be as one who speaks God’s words; if anyone serves, let it be from the strength God provides, so that God may be glorified through Jesus Christ in everything. To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

- God’s grace is multifaceted/varied, but the ultimate is the gift of salvation
- Through God’s grace, his love covers over our many, many sins
- It comes through Jesus - life, death, resurrection, ascension

Jesus, the Servant

1. Took action - he entered into human history, preached, healed, died, rose
2. Defined role - the Messiah, the King who’s in charge forever
3. Heartfelt - for the joy that was set before him
4. Bless us - that we might be forgiven and experience eternal life

Big idea: Jesus continually serves those who believe in him.

III. Being a Servant

1. Be fueled by the gospel | keep coming back the fountain
2. Identify the opportunity |
 - a. Serving God is different from serving anybody else, he has no need | BLESSING
 - b. With others, it takes a bit more work | Put on your detective hat
3. Apply to home, community, church

Interview Jeremy | I’ve gotten to know him as a servant-hearted guy

- How has God shaped you to be someone who serves?
- What ways has God used your service to be a blessing to others?
- How have you experienced the blessing of serving others?

Serving in the Church

Serving in the Sunday Gathering

- Behind the scenes stuff too: egg hunt, spring cleaning, discipleship
- Today focus on Sunday gathering

Three primary areas:

1. Worship and production: drums, audio, livestream
2. Kids ministry: check-in, nursery, runners, assistants
3. Operations: hospitality, breakfast, welcome and connect, prayer team

Highlights

1. Teacher | 7
 - a. Covenant members - we can help if you're not
 - b. Teaching and discipling, not just babysitting
 - c. Other areas to serve, but this is primary
2. Service director | 3
 - a. Do not need to be members
 - b. Decent with technology, decent with time, big picture
3. Security | 5
 - a. Keeping our children, but also our whole church safe
 - b. More that we have, the more we can do sweeps
 - c. Some new leadership and vision for this team
4. At the end of the gathering, please go to the back
 - a. Front of stage volunteers questions
 - b. Others with green clipboards
 - c. QR code on screen

Conclusion: Our serving must be fueled by the gospel. All other fuels will eventually run dry.

Eternal Servic

Revelation 7 ¹³Then one of the elders asked me, "Who are these people in white robes, and where did they come from?" ¹⁴I said to him, "Sir, you know." Then he told me: These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵For this reason they are before the throne of God, and they serve him day and night in his temple. The one seated on the throne will shelter them: ¹⁶They will no longer hunger; they will no longer thirst; the sun will no longer strike them, nor will any scorching heat. ¹⁷For the Lamb who is at the center of the throne will shepherd them; he will guide them to springs of the waters of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.