



5th Edition  
July 5, 2018

## Newsletter

### *Serve*

#### *Staff Outing*

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*This weekend we are hitting up Portage to go on a Wal-Mart/ Goodwill run! Come to buy things you need/ want/ desire etc. It'll be a fun time of shopping.*

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Serving can be really hard. But Serving can also be profoundly life-giving. For years I took high school students to Mexico to build churches or houses. They'd be tired, dirty, sick, totally out of their comfort zones as they served people who lived on almost nothing. But on the way home they'd tell me "We've never felt so alive."

Serving can be the closest thing to Heaven we experience. Some of us have tasted this but we still don't get it. It seems ironic.

We typically think of serving as depleting rather than infusing life. And that's because we've lost a biblical understanding of service.

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Here's a Christian understanding of service. Reject this understanding, and serving will wear you out. Embrace it, and you will bring Heaven to Earth by serving.

First, stop seeing "serving others" as a nice thing to do. It's not nice. It's good. It's a good thing.

It is a deeply, profoundly, truly and inherently good thing, because it pre-dates and post-dates sin.

We were serving in Eden before the curse and we'll be serving in Heaven after the curse is removed. Serving is part of the created order of things. It's part of the way things will be when everything is restored. It's that good. You were created to serve. You'll be serving forever. Because serving is inherently good.

Secondly, stop seeing service as something you're forced to do. Understand that you were made to serve.

I realize that, for some of us, it's nearly impossible to separate a person who serves from associations of punishment or ownership, or oppression, or class.

Forever, it seems, the losers have served the winners, the poor have served the wealthy, the occupied have served the victors.

Forever, it seems, success has been linked with being served, not serving others.

People-serving-you is one of the things that comes with greater status in every culture. Conversely, doing the serving often carries negative associations.

I have a friend who dressed as a custodian for Halloween and was treated rudely at the party. When someone is found guilty of a crime, the punishment sometimes includes hours of community service. Disrespect. Punishment.

Serving, something that is beautiful and good, has become polluted by sin and regarded as ugly and bad. We need to understand this. We need to see that some of the stuff we associate with serving is actually the junk that has been heaped onto serving.

Serving itself, is good. But it's been smeared by sin. And we've brought the message. Often it's been a kind of service that was forced. Which is wrong and totally broken.

It will always seem like it's beneath you, like you're too important to serve.

But if you understand service in a way that is Christian, that serving is good, that you were made to serve, then serving becomes a holy vocation.

-Nathan Oates

### *Christian Meme of the week*



*Want to see your meme in the Newsletter? Send them to Edith :)*