

IV. Persevering in Doing Good

A. Persevere in Service through Christ's Power

- 2 Thes 3:13: *"As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good."*
- The strength to serve comes from Christ in us. Abide in the vine.

Service Gone Wrong #7: Exhausting ourselves in service because we rely on our own strength.

- Strive for a **sustainably sacrificial** lifestyle of service.

B. Consider the Many Formal and Informal Service Opportunities at CHBC.

- Check the deacons' pages in the members' section of the web site
- Listen for opportunities on Sunday evenings and in the weekly E-Newsletter
- Prioritize informal, relational ministry

V. Conclusion: Decades of Service for God's Glory

Core Seminars—Living as a Church Class 11: Giving & Service: Sacrifice for the Sake of Unity



I. Introduction

- Christ's service to us is the model for our service in the church.
- Purpose of class:
 1. To consider how God has called Christians to serve in the church through the use of various gifts.
 2. To consider how we should serve in a way that promotes unity in the church and brings glory to God.

II. A Theology of Service

1 Peter 4:10-11: *"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace... whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ."*

1. Each Christian has received a gift.
2. The gift is a result of God's grace.
3. We are responsible for the use of that gift.
4. We should use the gift for the benefit of others and the glory of God.
5. We should serve through God's strength.

Purpose of Gifts – Eph. 4:12-13: unity of the body.

Service Gone Wrong #1: Belief that we are entitled to serve in a particular way because it is the path to personal fulfillment.

III. How Should We Serve in a Way that Promotes Unity?

A. Serve in God's Strength and With Great Joy.

- 1 Pet 4:10 – serve “by the strength that God supplies...”
- God is not concerned with only whether we use our gifts but also how we use them in our service.
- 2 Cor. 9:7: “Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

Service Gone Wrong #2: Serving out of guilt rather than gratitude.

B. Serve in the Knowledge that Everyone's Service Is Needed and Valuable.

- In 1 Cor. 12, Paul rejects the idea that any member of the body is useless or less important than another.

Service Gone Wrong #3: We give up serving because we don't see our contribution as important.

- We shouldn't be discontent with the gifts that God has given us, but it's healthy to seek and strive for spiritual gifts that we do not have (1 Cor 14:1)

C. Use Your Gifts Humbly.

- In 1 Cor. 12: 21-26, Paul admonishes those who have been given gifts of greater responsibility to exercise those gifts with humility.

Service Gone Wrong #4: Grumbling that others are not doing “their fair share.”

D. Serve to Glorify God and to Benefit Others and Yourself.

- Serving faithfully glorifies God by giving back to him what is his. (Psalm 24:1)
- Serving faithfully benefits other in the church.
- Serving faithfully brings us greater joy than selfishness and forces us to depend on God's strength.

Service Gone Wrong #5: Little service because your heart has been captured by the world.

Service Gone Wrong #6: Serving only up to what is seen as “acceptable” in the eyes of others.