

## Navigating the Tough Issues With God, Your Family, and Community

### “True Service”

1 John 3:11-19

**Castor oil/shots** = gross/hurts for a bit but there is health and life which comes from it. = Necessary to survive  
\*Last week: God wants your heart, not your money. He wants your everything. The money you give to the Lord through His Church is just a reflection of your worship and how much He has of your heart. **DOES He Have it?**

**Main Point: God wants your heart, not your excuses. He wants your everything. The *time* you give to the Lord through His local Church is just a reflection of your worship and how much He has of your heart.**

**READ 1 John 3:11-19:** - 1 John helpful book to teach believers HOW do you know you are TRULY saved  
“For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we are to love one another; <sup>12</sup> not as Cain, *who* was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And for what reason did he murder him? Because his *own* deeds were evil, but his brother’s were righteous.<sup>13</sup> Do not be surprised, brothers *and sisters*, if the world hates you. <sup>14</sup> We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers *and sisters*. The one who does not love remains in death. <sup>15</sup> Everyone who hates his brother *or sister* is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life remaining in him. <sup>16</sup> We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers *and sisters*. <sup>17</sup> But whoever has worldly goods and sees his brother *or sister* in need, and closes his <sup>18</sup>heart <sup>19</sup>against him, how does the love of God remain in him? <sup>18</sup> Little children, let’s not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.”

The Apostle John is reminding us that *IF* we are truly Believers in Christ it will be evident by our **LOVE**. Our love for Christ (*which is both a choice and an action*) will be evident by our servanthood of others (**choice/action**)

This is the kind of church we are striving to be. An active church loving and serving others well.

(Friendly church, a Bible preaching Church, .... Serving church, a generous church, and a missional church) **=YOU?**

The Bible is not unclear concerning the need of **EVERY** Believer to serve the Lord through His *local* Church:  
1 Peter 4:10 “As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

Colossians 3:23-24 “Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.” To serve is to serve Lord, serving is the overflow of our worship. TO say that we love God but not love HIS people, His family = we r liars!!

Galatians 5:13-14 “For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”= Paul is equating loving well with serving well. Time. Intention. Investment. Sacrifice  
-This is the mandate of Every Believer. **This is not optional**. Loving others is not optional *IF* you love Christ.

\*If you just want to **come and take** at the WELL, I fear you are at the wrong church = **comfortable consumer**  
- I want to lead a church of those who are SO in LOVE with Jesus that they can’t help but love/serve others.  
=We LOVE because He first loved us (1J4:19). We serve because He modeled servanthood to us (Mk 10:45)

- Serving is a **HEART** issue. It’s not a time issue. It’s not a gifting issue. It’s not a feeling issue. Not a guilt issue.  
To love others is to serve them. To love others is to INVEST your time with them (in community & in ministry)
- Serve where there is a **NEED**. As you serve, discern where else you can use your spiritual gifting  
**\*\*Taking out trash (no spiritual of trash). Chores are necessary in a family. EVERYONE helps. No freeloaders**
- Ask God to give you His **HEART** and His **EYES** to see needs around you and a passion to help others.

Luke 6:38 “Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”

**SO what are we trying to accomplish at the WELL? = LIFE CHANGE** (life diff. than the world has sold it) =sp.

1-We strive to glorify God as He **changes** our life daily to be conformed to the image of His Son (=sp. Maturity)

2-We strive to *demonstrate* that Jesus has truly changed us: **How?** In us = death to life, selfishness to selflessness, greed to generosity, flesh to spirit, self-centeredness to self-sacrificing, closed fist to open, idols to worship)

3-We strive to show others the sacrificial love of Christ (reflect what He has done for us) = part of discipleship –

- by **SEEING** others,
- by **ENGAGING** them,
- by **SERVING** their needs,
- by **SHARING** the gospel with them and
- by **INVESTING** spiritually in their lives. = LIFE CHANGE in you and IN THEM!!!!  
= This is the natural overflow of love relationship with Jesus because we begin to LOVE what He loves, and SERVE those whom He served. = LIFE of WORSHIP = GLORY      **Discipleship, Community, Serving**

## APPLICATION

- Worship (what and how we worship should look different)
- Love (who and how we love should look different)
- Investments (who and what you pour your life into should look different)
- Spiritual fruit (your life results should look different)=What fruit are you producing?

## PLEASE CHECK THE AREAS WHERE YOU ARE WILLING TO SERVE

- \_\_\_ Children's Ministry Sunday Morning Volunteer 9:15am \_\_\_\_\_ or at 11am \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ Children's Ministry Mid-Week Volunteer (for Classes, Bible Drill, discipleship, Fun events)
- \_\_\_ Wellspring Special Needs Ministry Sunday Morning Volunteer
- \_\_\_ Set-up Team for Children's Area \_\_\_\_\_ (I have a truck and am willing to pull a trailer on rotation)
- \_\_\_ Prayer Ministry Team (Prayer team, prayer-partners, note-writing)
- \_\_\_ I am willing to be trained how to disciple others
- \_\_\_ I am willing to be trained to counsel others in crises. \* I am a trained counselor \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ Helping Lead Adults through the Covenant Membership Process (Assimilation, follow-up, encourage)
- \_\_\_ Hospitality Areas (Parking lot, **GREETERS**, Coffee bar, Ushers in Auditorium)
- \_\_\_ Set-up Team for Stage Area                    \*\* \_\_\_\_\_ (I can run A.V./sound/computers for worship)
- \_\_\_ Foster Care Ministry Team (Helping our church become a regional advocate for adoption/fostering)
- \_\_\_ New Families Ministry Team (Greeting, preparing gifts, writing notes, ministry visits, calls)
- \_\_\_ In-reach Ministry Team (Care for *our* church families in need, bringing food, serving in crises)
- \_\_\_ \*I am willing to make food for a family in need: \_\_\_\_\_ I am willing to buy a meal for a family in need
- \_\_\_ Local Outreach Ministry Team (Helping reach our community, serving locally, evangelism)
- \_\_\_ Missions Ministry Team (Church-planting, International Missions planning & trips)
- \_\_\_ Security/ \*I serve in local law enforcement \_\_\_\_\_ **Medical Team** \* I am medically trained \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ Widows / Shut-ins / Single-Women & Single-Mom's Ministry
- \_\_\_ What's Missing? Where are you gifted to serve the Church? \_\_\_\_\_

\*Do you know what your spiritual gifting is? (Leadership, Serving, Teaching, Giving, Encouraging, Discerning, Faith, Mercy, Prayer, Administration, Prophecy) \_\_\_\_\_

If you are unsure of your spiritual gifting, take the FREE test:      [www.spiritualgiftstest.com](http://www.spiritualgiftstest.com)

