

Small Group Study Guide, from Sunday, January 6, 2022

Message Series: SERVING ONE ANOTHER

John 13:34,35 – “A new command I give to you: to love one another. By this, everyone will know that you are my disciples.”

Take a moment to pray for the Lord to still your mind and direct your thoughts, conversation and response to the study.

Appetizer:

The phrase “one another” occurs 100 times in the New Testament. This phrase is rarely used in the Old Testament. One of the unique distinctives that the message of Jesus brought with His Gospel is that our faith in God must be expressed in action.

Faith in Jesus isn’t based upon how much of the Bible we know.

Faith in Jesus is based upon how we translate our knowledge into serving others. Faith is connected with “bearing fruit”.

Discuss.

How have you seen this played out in the church today?

How have you seen this played out in the church that you grew up in?

How do you see this being played out in your personal relationship with Jesus?

Main Course:

In the illustration of Jesus washing the Disciples’ feet, Jesus modelled how He wanted His followers to understand their role as His ambassadors.

Pastor Phil re-worded it this way: “Serving is the highest form of serving one another.”

Agree or disagree?

It was taught that there are 3 spheres in which we are called to serve. Jesus didn’t make any distinctions when He called us to be servants. We are not exempt from any of these:

1. Home

- for some, this sphere is one of the most difficult areas to serve.
 - Why would that be, and give examples of how when serving within a family can be challenging.

2. Church

- When we become Christians, we become body parts! We are called to serve our church family.
 - What is your ministry to our congregation?
 - Is that a position you’ve always had?
 - Is it your position for life or can there be several areas in which we can serve?
 - How do abilities/spiritual gifts factor into what areas we serve in?
 - Do we need to be called to a ministry, or is an area of need a calling in itself?

3. World

- This past year, Pastor Jeff has taught about how we can be “pastors to our neighbourhoods”.
 - Give practical examples of what that could look like.

Dessert:

Churches come alive when Christians don’t settle for being “dormant limbs” in the Body of Christ and when they serve both the congregation and those outside the church.

How can we break a pattern of being a “Consumer Christian” and share in the disciple-making mission of our church?

Discuss.

Pray.