

Sermon Notes
Good News Church
“Good News 101 – Basic Essentials of Faith & GNC Vision, Mission, and Values”
Sacrificial Serving
Drue Warner
10-19-25

OVERVIEW – We’re talking about who we are as a church (Why do we exist? What is our purpose?), what we believe, what difference what we believe makes in our lives, and what is our motivation undergirding our beliefs and behaviors.

- **Vision** – *“to experience and express LOVE from God and to others.”*
 - **Verse** – The verse that undergirds our vision is, *Galatians 5:6b, “The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.”*
- **Mission** – Our mission is *“to connect with people and build relationships through community workshops, neighborhood-focused ministry, serving local needs, mentoring, and worship.”*

THE GOOD NEWS

“He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.” - Romans 4:25

GNC BELIEFS

1. I’m really broken and I need help.
2. Jesus is perfect and He is my help.
3. Jesus is the only way to healing in my relationship with God.
4. The Holy Spirit is my power to live as a follower of Jesus.
5. **God calls me to submit to His authority and to serve His Church**

GNC BEHAVIORS

1. **Serving others (valuing others greater than myself)**
2. Reconciling relationships (building bridges, not burning them)
3. Giving generously (blessing others with my time, talent, and treasure)

LAST WEEK... 5. God calls me to submit to His authority and to serve His Church

Benefits of Submission to the local Church

- **Safety net of care** from your spiritual family
 - **Elder Shepherding** – unexpected crisis, marriage distress, counsel, prayer
 - **Deacon Care** – help moving, A/C replacement, mortgage payment
 - **Committed Community – we are created for community**
 - Loneliness
 - Unbelief
 - Support

Beauty of Submission (A Loving Parent)

When people in the Church submit to the authority of the Church, they are trusting that, as they submit, the Church will care for them as would a loving parent.

- Hurt & Pain
- Conflict & Disobedience
 - Discipline purpose is repentance and restoration.

Beauty of Submission

*Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should **restore that person gently**. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. **Carry each other's burdens**, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ **(to love God and one another)**. If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves. – Galatians 6:1-3*

Confession & Submission

Many of us would say that we do believe in Jesus and have received Him as our Savior, but along with CONFESSION, there must be SUBMISSION to God's authority.

THIS WEEK...

BELIEF

- 5) God calls me to submit to His authority and to serve His Church

Serving

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others." – Philippians 2:3-4

- Prioritizing others really is what being a follower of Jesus is all about, because that's the nature of love (valuing the needs of others as greater than our own).

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." – Mark 10:45

- The God of the Universe could have come to earth and demanded that He be served. Instead, He came and demanded that we be served. > **Our Motivation**

Serving His Church

*"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, **especially to those who belong to the family of believers (household of faith)**."*

– Galatians 6:9-10

PRIORITY

- As followers of Jesus, submission and service go hand in hand, and the priority of serving is the family of God.
- It makes sense, in that we are called to care for our own families (and children) before we seek to care for our neighbors and their families.
- If our own family is in shambles with unmet needs, then our service to others will not be adequately representative of the love of Jesus.

FAMILY

When you become a part of the body of Christ, you're also a part of the family of God.

"You are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household." – Ephesians 2:19

In every family, every person has a role to play. There are things that family members like to do, and there are things that family members have to do (aka chores).

Part of being a part of a family is pitching in and helping out, not only in the areas that we enjoy serving, but also in the areas of service that just need to be done.

The good news is that there are family members who enjoy the things that you may not enjoy (and vice-versa), but the reality is that every family and every church has needs to be met in order to function in a healthy way.

- What does this look like? What are some ways that people who are a part of a church can serve each other?
- **TEAMS (Community, Care, Prayer)**
 - Set Up / Break Down
 - Welcome / Hospitality
 - Children / Youth
 - Preaching / Teaching
 - Worship (Music / Tech)
 - Food

NEW IDEA! "Crockpots & Casseroles" Meals Ministry

The idea here is a meals ministry of pre-made crockpot recipes and casseroles that we can collect and keep in our giant deep freezer at our Hillside Retreat House. That way, when a family or individual in the church (or community) needs meals (i.e., new baby, health issues, death, etc.), we can respond instantly. We're going to upload a few crockpot and casserole recipes to [this webpage](#) (under construction) that will be good for pretty much anyone (i.e., no nuts, seafood, not spicy, etc.). If you'd like to help organize and/or if you have a yummy recipe you'd like to share, contact Laura Warner.

OBSTACLES – 1) Time 2) Fear 3) Interest

1. Time – *“I don’t have time.”*

- Giving of ourselves and of our time is always the first obstacle to overcome when following Jesus.
- Often times, when opportunities to serve arise, it happens at times that are not convenient to our plans and our schedule.
- Serving gives us the opportunity to exercise faith in the face of time.

2. Fear – *“What if...?”*

- There are a lot of different angles of fear that we can face as relates to serving – unknown, rejection, failure, safety, etc.
- Serving gives us the opportunity to exercise faith in the face of our fears.

“Don’t be afraid, for I am with you. Do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you. I will help you. I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.”

- Isaiah 41:10

3. Interest – *“This is not something that I want to do.”*

- It’s not uncommon to not have a natural interest in serving the need that’s presented.
- Serving gives the opportunity to *“put the interests of others ahead of our own interests”* (Philippians 2:4).

QUESTIONS

- Serving can either be done to please ourselves or to please God. A great question to ask when you’re serving is, **“Who am I doing this for – me or God?”**
- **Take care of your heart and make sure it’s connected to Jesus.** He is the Vine. We are the branches. Any branch that is not connected cannot bear fruit. No matter how awesome your service is, if you’re not connected to Jesus, it produces nothing.
- **Serving others is the heartbeat of what it is to be a follower of Christ**, but the key is, that service must be motivated by the love of Christ (without an ulterior motive) for God’s glory not our own. **Q: What is my motivation?**

FINAL THOUGHTS

1. When we serve, we grow in our relationship with God and each other.
2. Saying yes to God is always the best decision. What is he asking you to do?
3. When we serve, we get to be a part of building God’s Kingdom here on earth.

And THAT’S Good News!