

July 24, 2022

Attitudes, Part 9

by Warren Berkley

Serve One Another!

(Gal. 5:13)

“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.”

We are freed from sin when we obey the gospel of Christ, and as we continue the obedience of faith, we stay free from sin in Him (Rom. 6:17-23). We must not, however, be foolish and presumptuous about that freedom. Do not, Paul said above, “use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh.” And this is echoed by Peter: “...do not use your freedom as a covering for evil,” (1 Pet. 2:16, NASB). So what we enjoy and praise God for, must never become any license for liberty. That is the “do not” part of this.

The DO part of this is: “...through love serve one another.” Observe this isn’t a legalistic, “do I have do” kind of thing. No. This is service we render to each other out of a sincere mind toward all the components of service we are able to provide. We have received from God, have freedom in Christ, so now: “...use it to serve one another.” This we do gladly as “good stewards of God’s varied grace,” (1 Pet. 4:10).

We do this likewise as disciples of Christ who “came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as ransom for many,” (Mark 10:42-45).

What does this look like in actual practice? It looks like counting others more significant than ourselves (Phil. 2:30). It looks like equipping ourselves to be able to instruct one another (Rom. 15:14). It looks like bearing with one another, “and if one has a complaints against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive,” (Col. 3:13). It looks like sharing bread (Prov. 22:9), showing hospitality (1 Pet. 4:9) and refusing to put a stumbling block or offense before a brother (Rom. 14:13). We are free but free to serve in these ways, to the glory of God.

Serving one another sounds like declining greatness (Luke 22:26-27), encouraging one another (1 Thess. 4:18), praying for each other (Jas. 5:13) and speaking words of kindness (Col. 3:12). Freedom in Christ? YES, thank God. In that freedom there is service to God and His people and to the lost, through love.

I suspect I’ll spend the rest of my life attempting to live the outward-focused life. Learning to be a servant is quite a process. There is a big part of me that just wants to circle the wagons. Or cocoon. Or whatever word describes inward living. And I’m pretty sure my brain would be happy just storing stuff. But I want my heart to rule, to receive and give. Because as I periodically remind myself, this life is not about me; it’s about God and others. Enough talk. Now let’s make a difference in someone’s life

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

Important Dates

Bulverde Summer Series each Thursday evening through the summer on “Love One Another”

Gospel Meeting - Grissom Road in San Antonio, August 7-12

Our fall meeting with Zeke Flores is scheduled for September 18-21

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

today. Enough talk. Now let's Let's go serve somebody. [Source: Workman, Dave. The Outward-Focused Life: Becoming a Servant in a Serve-Me World (p. 186). Baker Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.]

Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson is still struggling with pain and limited mobility. His recent shots have not helped.

Jerry Richardson is still undergoing treatments to strengthen his immune system.

Karen Hallmark has improved but continues to struggle and could use our prayers.

Dinah Williams is at home and continues to have mobility issues.

Don Simmons is home and still struggling with his breathing; he is on oxygen at all times. **Alene** is having hip issues.

John Miller (Dyanne Turner's brother) is home from the hospital.

Debbie McMurray is recovering from her radiation treatment.

Jayme Wilson is having some heart issues and had a pacemaker put in this past week.

Ana Urquhart is recovering from covid.

George Gresham is suffering from kidney stones. He has a procedure scheduled for Thursday.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,”
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord's body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord's will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

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