

“Service With A Smile!”
Hebrews 13:1-6

Introduction:

1. One Of The Most Important Phrases In The Service Industry Is: “Service With A Smile!”
 - We Have All Experienced Poor Service!
 - Usually Not Served With A Smile!
 - Or If There Was A Smile, It Was Not Sincere!
 - Usually Remember These Situations!
 - And Never Go Back! Tell Others Never To Go Either!
 - We Have All Experienced Good Service!
 - “Service With A Smile!”
 - Service With Sincerity!
 - Usually Remember These Situations Too!
 - And Always Go Back!
 - Sincere Service Makes Everyone Happy!
 2. We Just Finished Looking At The Last Part Of Hebrews 12 – Which Taught Us To Be “Consumed” With The Lord!
 - Some Of The Reasons For This:
 - What He Has Done For Us – He Has Given Us “A Kingdom Which Cannot Be Moved!” (12:28)
 - Who He Is – “Our God Is A Consuming Fire!” (12:29)
 - The Great Result For This:
 - 12:28 - “Let Us Have Grace, Whereby We May **Serve** God Acceptably With Reverence And Godly Fear!”
 - The End Result Of All Of This Is Our Service To God!
 3. Chapter 13 Then Shows Us How This Service Is Displayed!
 - It Is Not Just An Add-On To The Rest Of The Book Of Hebrews – It Is An Integral Part Of Its Message!
 - Chapter 13 Teaches Us That A Passion And Service For God Will In Turn Be Displayed In A Passion And Service For Others!
 - These Are The Duties Of A True Disciple!
 - Reflects The Teaching Of Jesus - John 13:34-35 - “A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another!”
 - So We See The Importance Of “Service With A Smile” In The Christian Life!
 - The Kind Of Sincere Service To God And Others Seen In This Chapter Will Put A Smile On God’s Face!
 4. Are You Serving With A Smile?
 - Desiring To Please God Because Of Who He Is & What He Has Done?
 - Does Your Service Bring A Smile?
 - To God & To Others?
 - How Can You Serve With Sincerity & A Smile?
 - Serve With Love / Purity!
- 1. *Serve With Love!***
- 13:1-3 - “Let brotherly love continue. 2 Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. 3 Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body!”
 - These First Three Verses Explain How Your Service For God And Others Must Come From A Heart Of Love!
 - Duties For True Disciples!
 - Gives Three Groups Of People To Serve & Love:
 - ***Lovingly Serve Saints!***
 - 13:1 - “Let brotherly love continue!”
 - We “Serve God Acceptably” **By** Loving And Displaying That Love (Through Service) To Others!

- Hebrews 6:10 - "For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister!"
- Because Of Your Knowledge Of God & Because Of Your Relationship With Your Family Of Faith – Continue To Love Them As You Would Love Your Own Natural Family – And More So!
 - "Philadelphia" - "City Of Brotherly Love!"
 - Not "City Of Brotherly Shove" As Many Churches Today Demonstrate!
- Displaying Our God-Given Love Starts Here In Our Own Church!
 - Galatians 6:10 - "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith!"
 - "Especially" But Not Exclusively!
- **Lovingly Serve Strangers!**
 - 13:2 - "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."
 - This Seems To Have Been A Problem - "Stop Neglecting Love For / Receiving Strangers / Hospitality!"
 - In Order To Continue To "Serve God Acceptably" Show Hospitality & Love & Service To Those In Need!
 - Who?
 - Those Who Need Hospitality!
 - Those Who Cannot Pay For Hospitality!
 - Why?
 - To Share What God Has Blessed You With! Physical & Spiritual!
 - Without Regard For Convenience / Benefit / Payment!
 - How?
 - Reminds Us Of Abraham & Lot In Genesis, Who Unknowingly Showed Hospitality To Angels!
 - Genesis 18:1-10 - Abraham Saw / Ran / Bowed / Offered Water, Rest, Food, Service From His Entire House & Family!
 - What Would You Have Done? What Do You Do Now?
 - This Does Not Teach That You Will Entertain Angels!
 - But That Sometimes You Might Receive The Biggest Blessing!
 - I Remember Chinjawhow Simte From Burma / Paul Tan From Indonesia / Ernest Pickering
 - I Saw Their Love & Commitment To The Lord, Just In The Fact That They Were Away From Their Families!
 - How Much Blessing Do We Miss From Ignoring Hospitality?
 - Not Just Meals – But Opening Your Homes!
 - Not Just Family & Friends / Those Known & Loved / But Those Unknown & Perhaps Unlovely!
- **Lovingly Serve Strugglers!**
 - 13:3 - "Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body!"
 - You May Not Be Able To Show Hospitality & Love To Everyone By Bringing Them Into Your Home – Sometimes You May Need To Bring Them Into Your Mind & Bring Yourself To Them!
 - Especially In The Case Of Those In Prison & Those Being Persecuted!
 - Prisoners:
 - Doesn't Say What Kind Or Why They Are Prisoners!
 - Physical - Hebrews 10:34 - "For ye had *compassion* of me in my bonds!"
 - Spiritual - 2 Timothy 2:9 - "The word of God is not bound!"
 - Remember Them & Do Something About It!
 - Don't Be Calloused - "They Deserve What They God!" - But Gracious & Merciful As God Is! Show Them How They Can Be Free Spiritually, So That They Will Know How

- To Live When They Are Freed Spiritually!
- Imagine What It Must Be Like!
- **IE:** Mount Zion Ministry!
- Persecuted:
 - Doesn't Say What Kind Or Why They Are Mistreated – Though It May Be Undeserved And/Or Excessive!
 - Remember Them & Do Something About It!
 - Imagine What It Must Be Like!
 - **IE:** Persecuted Church - They May Be Far, But Are Your Eyes Open, Heart Moved & Hands Activated?
- To “Serve God Acceptably” Means You Will Serve Others Lovingly!
 - “Especially Unto Them Who Are Of The Household Of Faith” – Whether They Are From Your Church, Or Strangers, Or Prisoners – But Not Exclusively!

2. ***Serve With Purity!***

- 13:4-6 - “Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge. 5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. 6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me!”
 - These Next Three Verses Explain How You “Serve God Acceptably” With A Pure Heart In Your Relationships With People & Possessions! Duties For True Disciples!
- ***Purity Towards People!***
 - 13:4 - “Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge!”
 - A Statement Which Is Intended To Cause You To Esteem Marriage & Keep It As Honorable And Pure As God Intended!
 - “Marriage Is Honorable In All!”
 - Not “To All” - Because Its Not, Is It? Living Together / Divorce / Required Celibacy - Marriage Is Not Honored!
 - “In All Aspects!”
 - In That God Created Marriage!
 - In That It Reflects The Relationship Between Christ & The Church!
 - In That It Is The Foundation For Society!
 - In That It Elevates True Love & Commitment!
 - In That It Brings Fulfilment And Satisfaction To Both Men And Women!
 - In That It Shows Unity, Even A Mystery Of Two Becoming One!
 - This Is Why Marriage Ought To Be Esteemed & Honored – Publically & Privately – In Your Own Home & With Your Own Spouse!
 - Purity In Your Closest Human Relationship Is Necessary if You Want Purity In Your Relationship With & Service For God!
 - Because Without Purity, The Only Thing Left Is God's Own Judgment!
 - There May ***Seem*** To Be Some Joy, Companionship & Compatibility – But Only Temporary!
 - Who Will God Judge? Two Classes Of People Who Dishonor Marriage & The Purity Of The Marriage Bed:
 - “Whoremonger” - Fornicator - A Person Who Seeks To Satisfy Someone Else's Lusts! Loose Morals & Immodest Standards!
 - “Adulterer” - A Person Who Seeks To Satisfy Their Own Lusts! Unlawfully!
 - You Cannot “Serve God Acceptably” If You Are Not Honoring Marriage! He Created Marriage
 - You Are Dishonoring Him!
- ***Purity Towards Possessions!***
 - 13:5-6 - “Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. / So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me!”
 - You Cannot “Serve God Acceptably” If Money & The Things Money Can Buy Are The

First Things On Your Mind!

- Luke 16:13 - "No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon!"
- The Way / "Conversation" Of A Christian Is Not Covetousness!
 - Greediness – The Love Of Money!
- The Way Of A Christian Is Contentment!
 - Being Satisfied With The Things You Presently Have – Both Possessions & Circumstances!
 - Philippians 4:11 - "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content!"
 - 1 Timothy 6:6-8 - "But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content!"
- Instead, In His Grace, God Offers Himself!
 - He Will Not Fail / He Will Not Forsake You!
 - So That You Will Both Believe & Testify About Him!
 - He Is Your Helper!
 - You Will Not Fear!
 - God Provides Both Inward Strength & Outward Safety!
 - So You Can Be Content!
 - He Provides All That You Need!
- Why Would There Be Any Reason To "Serve" Him In A "Greedy" Way?
- To "Serve God Acceptably" Means You Will Serve With A Pure Heart! Honoring His Creation & Care!

Conclusion:

1. Covered A Lot Of Ground In These Verses – Very Practical Display Of Your Regard & Respect & Service For God!
 - Each One Is Very Important & Must Be Looked At!
 - But, Most Importantly, Remember That Your Service & Relationship With Others Is A Reflection Of Your Service & Relationship With God!
 - Are You Serving Others With Love?
 - Are You Serving Others With Purity?
2. Without Love & Purity, You Cannot Serve God Acceptably!
 - You Need To Renew Your Understanding Of God & His Work!
 - Only When Your Relationship With God Is Right Can Your Relationship With Others Be Loving & Pure!
 - Only Then Will Your Service Bring A Smile To The Face Of The Lord – As You Serve Him Acceptably!

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