

Give yourself to mutual service, v.10-11

- I. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.
 - A. We’ve *all* been gifted by God with grace to serve.
 - 1. Peter’s talking to every single believer, every single member in the churches receiving this letter. Each of us is gifted by God for mutual service.
 - 2. We normally think about gifts like talents—either you have it or you don’t. But Peter tells us God’s gifted each of us—not with special talents per se, but with varied grace—grace to serve.
 - B. We’ve been gifted to serve *one another* (compare v.8, v.9, v.10).
 - 1. We’ve been gifted for mutual service. God is the fountain of all grace, but it pleases Him to channel that grace through us to one another, to His glory, cf. 2Cor 1.3-4.
 - 2. To forgive each other, show hospitality to one another, and serve one another, is to let the grace of God flow through you in His church to His glory.
 - C. We’re stewards of our gifts.
 - 1. None of us is a proprietary lord of anything we have. It’s all been gifted to us by God and entrusted to us as stewards.
 - 2. That means out of a love for God, out of a fear of God, and out of honor for Christ, we should all give ourselves to the exercise of our gifts gladly, diligently, faithfully, and thankfully, remembering that we’ll give an account to Him.
 - D. Reflections, Eph 4.11-16.
 - 1. None of us is useless. We’ve all been given the grace to serve others.
 - 2. None of us is self-sufficient. We all stand in need of the ministry of others to us.
- II. Two illustrations of mutual service: speaking and serving.
 - A. When we’re handling the *Word* of God in a *speaking* ministry.
 - 1. We’re to remember we’re handling the very oracles of God.
 - 2. Just think how this impacts the church’s ministers and pastors.
 - a) Pastors are called to preach and teach faithfully. The Word they handle isn’t their own. It’s the Word of Almighty God, 2Tim 3.16, and the power of God to save and sanctify, Rom 1.16; Jn 17.17; 2Tim 2.15.
 - b) They’re to preach and teach reverently in the fear of God. Both the content and delivery of their messages are to reflect this reality: that God is in His Temple and that the preaching of the Word of God is the Word of God.
 - B. When we’re stewarding the *love* of God in a *servicing* ministry.
 - 1. We’re to remember that we’ll find all the strength and sufficiency we need, not in ourselves, but in God.
 - 2. Just think how this impacts the church’s deacons.
 - a) Deacons are to humbly rely on God to provide and to pray for hearts of compassion, gentleness, and mercy so that Christ Himself will be seen in all their service.
 - C. All in all, as we serve one another, we’re to maintain a constant sense of absolute dependence upon God and accountability to God in the exercise of our various gifts.
- III. The purpose of all our service is so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, Mt 5.16; Eph 4.8; Heb 13.15.
 - A. Service in Christ’s church is not about the individuals who minister. In its motivation, content, and purpose, genuine ministry is about God’s glory.
 - B. Every one of us—in all our service, love, good works, and ministry to one another—we’re just instruments in God’s hands.
 - 1. The church is His church. He’s organized it. He’s brought in its members. He’s given it its ordinances, officers, and pastor.
 - 2. It’s His grace and Spirit at work in us that qualifies and calls us to serve one another as He gives us opportunities.
 - 3. And when we yield ourselves to His Spirit and put ourselves in the way of service, He’s glorified in us through Christ.
- IV. Conclusion
 - A. Learn from vv.7-11 that the true beauty of Christ’s church is found in its likeness to Christ—a likeness pursued by all its members and most manifest to the world and beneficial to the church when all its members are willing and ready to be used of God to serve one another as He calls, Jn 13.35. Pray for and pursue this beauty.
 - B. Grow in your service to one another. Ask your elders, deacons, trustees, and Sunday School coordinator where *you* can serve.
 - C. Remember that just as your strength to serve others will be found in Christ, so your joy and perseverance in that service will be found when you’re doing it for His sake, in His name, and for His glory—and not your own. Keep your eyes on Christ.