

The Connection

Messages of Hope



A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 825

March 5, 2025

“Spiritual Discipline 5 - Serving”

In Reformed theology, serving is an essential aspect of the Christian life, reflecting the believer's response to God's grace and their identity as followers of Jesus Christ. Serving is not only about acts of charity but also about living in obedience to God's commands and using one's gifts and talents for His glory. Reformed theology emphasizes that serving is rooted in gratitude for the salvation received in Christ, and it is part of the believer's calling to love God and others.

Here are key points about the role of serving in the life of a believer according to Reformed theology, supported by embedded Scripture verses:

1. Serving is a Response to God's Grace

Reformed theology teaches that salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone (*sola gratia, sola fide*). The believer is saved not by works but for good works. Serving, therefore, is a grateful response to God's grace in Christ.

- **Ephesians 2:8-10**
“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”
Serving is part of God's plan for believers. Good works are not the means of salvation, but they are the fruit of salvation.

2. Serving Reflects Christ's Example

Jesus Christ is the ultimate example of a servant. Reformed theology teaches that believers are called to imitate Christ, who came not to be served but to serve others. This service is seen in His humility and sacrificial love.

- **Mark 10:45**
“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”
Jesus' service culminates in His sacrificial death, and believers are called to live out that same selfless service in their relationships with others.

3. Serving is an Expression of Love for God and Others

Reformed theology teaches that serving others is a way of fulfilling the greatest commandment: to love God and love one's neighbor. Service is not merely about fulfilling duties but about demonstrating love and compassion in practical ways.

- **Matthew 22:37-39**
“And he said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”
Serving, then, is rooted in love for God and others, and it reflects the character of the Kingdom of God.

4. Serving is an Outworking of Faith

Faith and works are inseparable in Reformed thought. True faith produces good works, and serving others is one of the ways in which this faith is made visible. Serving is a tangible expression of the inward transformation the believer experiences through the Holy Spirit.

- **James 2:17**
“So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”
Faith is alive and active when it leads to serving others, showing the world that the believer's faith is genuine.

HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, March 5

Supper, Study and Prayer

Supper @ 6pm

ASH WEDNESDAY SVC @ 7pm

Thursday, March 6

Worship Team Rehearsal @ 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 9

Worship Team Run Through
@ 8:00 a.m.

Worship @ 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, March 12

Wednesday Night Supper @ 6pm
Study & Prayer @ 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 13

Worship Team Rehearsal @ 7:00 p.m.

Helping Hands for

MARCH 9, 2024

ProPresenter

Elizabeth Floyd

Soundboard

Jane Davis

Live Streaming

Al Floyd

Communion

Elizabeth Floyd

Greeter

Diane Mack

Scripture Text and Sermon

This Coming Sunday

Spiritual Disciplines for the

Christian Life:

“Stewardship”

John 17:4

Luke 16:22-23

Prophecies O.T.

Revealed.... N.T.

Mar 2 John 3:14-18

Mar 3 Num 21:9

Mar 4 John 1:14

Mar 5 Deut 18:15

Mar 6 John 6:4

Mar 7 Deut 18:15-16

GROW

Women of HOPE

Saturdays at 10a.m. at HOPE

3/22/25

Time Management: How Do You
Do It ALL

Wednesday Night

Supper, Study, and Prayer

Supper @ 6:00 pm

Email Pastor your attendance

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

@ 7pm

“Food of the Month”

for the Raleigh Dream Center
Food Pantry

Boxed Cereal

We have a collection bin in the foyer

HOPE Meal Ministry

Take a meal from the freezer if
needed for you or someone else.

SERVE

TLC Devotion

4th Wednesday each month

@ 11:00 a.m.

5124 Departure Dr # 101, Raleigh

WANTED:

“GIFTED VOLUNTEERS FOR DIFFICULT
SERVICE IN THE LOCAL EXPRESSION OF
THE KINGDOM OF GOD. VOLUNTEERS
MUST BE FAITHFUL IN SPITE OF LONG
HOURS, LITTLE OR NO VISIBLE RESULTS,
AND POSSIBLY NO RECOGNITION
- EXCEPT FROM GOD FOR ALL ETERNITY!”

Prayer Requests:

Dave Rendall, Dale Herriman, Gene & Becky
Hale, Sam and Rachael, Krishana, Joan
Rollinson, Ron Clifton, Will Floyd's Fiancé's
Mother: Jennifer, Jerry & Alice Kinard,
Dianne Reinoso, Janice Worthington, Cindy
(Elizabeth), Nancy Hutchens (Positive
Cancer), Pastor Search Committee,
Barbara(81) Stroke, Joey(18) Crohn's, Ebo
(Glioblastoma #3/4)-family has 4 children,
Youth Ministry, Kathy Jo and her family,
Donna Williams & Family, Peggy Karpenske,
Claudia in Idaho (Kathy H), Patty Moyer's
son Brandon, Dave & Dot Geil, Corbin
Broome, The Mallory family, Carol & Colin
(Kathy H), Loretta (Sandi U), Joan Summers,
Shelley Riggelman (Bruce), Jordan Stevens
(Lynn J.), Ellie Tappan, Carlyle and Cynthia
Franklin, our Military, Police, Fire, and EMS,
Missionaries, our Nation.

Save This Saturday THE RALEIGH NAVIGATORS

Presents

“Disciples Making Disciples”

Sat. March 8 from 9 - 1

Bring your Bible and Join Us.

UPCOMING

WOMEN OF HOPE

Saturdays at 10 a.m. at HOPE

4/12/25

It's never too late to make things
right

4/26/25

Why do you call one day good and
another day bad?

HOPE Church Raleigh

An Evangelical Presbyterian Church

4911 Green Rd

Raleigh, NC 27616

919-508-6827

Worship Time: 9:30 AM

www.HopeChurchRaleigh.org

www.facebook.com/HOPEChurchRaleigh

Twitter: @HopeChRaleigh

YouTube.com (type “HOPE Church Raleigh”
in the search box)

5. Serving in the Church and the World

Serving occurs both within the body of Christ (the Church) and in the world. The believer is called to use their gifts for the edification of the Church and for the advancement of God's Kingdom in the world. Reformed theology emphasizes the importance of serving both in the Church (e.g., through teaching, serving in ministries, and encouraging one another) and outside the Church (e.g., caring for the poor, seeking justice, and sharing the gospel).

- **1 Peter 4:10-11**

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

Believers are stewards of the gifts God has given them, and these gifts are to be used in service to others, bringing glory to God.

6. Serving Demonstrates the Unity of the Body of Christ

In Reformed theology, the Church is the body of Christ, and serving one another fosters unity. Each believer is given specific gifts, and those gifts are meant to be used in harmony with others for the common good and the mission of the Church.

- **1 Corinthians 12:4-7**

“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”

The body of Christ functions best when all members serve in their various roles, contributing to the health and growth of the whole Church.

7. Serving Prepares Believers for Eternal Glory

Reformed theology also teaches that serving is not only an earthly task but a preparation for eternal life. Believers are called to live faithfully in this life, knowing that their service to God and others will have eternal rewards.

- **Matthew 25:40**

“And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’”

Serving others is a way of serving Christ, and believers are promised eternal rewards for such faithful service.

Conclusion

In Reformed theology, serving is not just about actions or external deeds but is deeply intertwined with a believer's identity in Christ. It is an expression of love, a reflection of Christ's example, and an outgrowth of faith. Serving glorifies God, builds up the body of Christ, and advances God's Kingdom, both in the Church and the world. Ultimately, it is a call to live out one's faith with humility, love, and gratitude for the grace that has been freely given.