

Twelve Reasons to Serve

Bastian Fähnrich, 15.8.2009

Message (in Finnish) at Truth event's training session



1. By serving people we may testify as God's servants (Isaiah 61:6) about Jesus' love and salvation according to the Great Commission: (Matthew 28:19): "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."
2. By serving people we may remind them about our merciful God, "who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth." (1 Tim. 2:4). And Christ is the Truth, just as He tells (John 14:6): "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." Let's remember, that Jesus is the Truth and that "the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men." (Tit. 2:11)
3. By serving people we may show through concrete deeds of love (and perhaps also words of the Bible and Holy Spirit) that "God is love," and that "we love because he first loved us." (1 John 4:18-19)
4. By serving people we may refer to Jesus' love and saving hand and serve others based on His example (Eph. 5:1-2): "Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."
5. By serving people we may respond to Jesus' call for "service" (Rom. 12:3-8, 1 Cor. 12:12-31, Eph. 4:12a), not to serve ourselves but foremostly other, just as Christ did Himself (Mark 10:45): "Even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."
6. By serving people we may live up to Jesus' recommendation of living a holy and exemplary life (Rom. 12:1, also 6:19, Tit. 2:7): "Offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God." And (1 Pet. 2:12): "Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us."
7. By serving people we may serve God (Col. 3:23-24): "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men (...) It is the Lord Christ you are serving." The aim of serving is to glorify and honour Him (1 Pet. 4:11): "If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever."
8. By serving people we may build up and grow as the Church, as Christ's body, as parts of which every member has a specific task and service according to the God-given knowledge, abilities and gifts (Exod. 4:11, Rom. 12:3-8, 1 Cor. 12:4-31, Eph. 4:12a).
9. By serving people we may develop and grow stronger in our faith (Col. 1:10, Eph. 4:13), if need be also through tests and difficulties (1 Pet. 2:21).
10. By serving people we may trust on each other's support. No-one needs to serve alone, but in a joint approach, supporting each other. Together we may achieve also better results (Eccl. 4:9-12): "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!"
11. By serving people we may take refuge in the Holy Spirit's power, strength, leading, counsel and help (Zech. 4:6, see also John 14:16,26, 15:26, Rom. 8:14,26, Acts 9:31): "Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord Almighty."
12. By serving people we may testify that we are servants of God and experience that our Heavenly Father keeps us always in His care (Isaiah 41:9-10): "I said, 'You are my servant'; I have chosen you and have not rejected you. So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

(1 Chron. 28:20): "Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the Lord is finished." Also Jesus promises us (Matthew 28:20) in the context of the Great Commission: "I am with you always, to the very end of the age."