

## Course Outline

Class 1 *Unity*

Class 2 *Church Membership*

Class 3 *Preaching*

Class 4 *Prayer*

Class 5 *Ordinances*

Class 6 *Church Governance*

Class 7 *Church Fellowship*

Class 8 *Discontentment Within the Church*

Class 9 *Church Leadership*

Class 10 *Church Discipline*

Class 11 *Giving and Service*

### **NEXT:**

**Class 12 *Corporate Worship***

Class 13 *Evangelism*

## LIVING AS A CHURCH

### Class 11: Giving and Serving

*Sacrifice for the Sake of Unity*



---

#### I. Introduction

- Christ's service to us is the model for our service in the church.
- Purpose of class:
  1. To consider how God has called Christians to serve in the church through the use of various gifts.
  2. To consider how we should serve in a way that promotes unity in the church and brings glory to God.

#### II. A Theology of Service

1 Peter 4:10-11: Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in it various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. *See also* Eph. 4; Rom. 12:1; Cor. 12.

#### Five Points:

- Each Christian has received a gift.
- The gift is a result of God's grace.
- We are responsible for the use of that gift.
- We should use the gift for the benefit of others and the glory of God.
- We should serve through God's strength.

**Purpose of Gifts** – Eph. 4:12: to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God, and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of God.

1 Cor. 14:1: Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts . . . See also Phil. 3:12-14.

### III. How Should we Serve in a way that Promotes Unity?

#### A. Serve in God's Strength and With Great Joy.

1 Pet. 4:11 (see above).

- God is not concerned with only whether we use our gifts but also how we use them in our service.

2 Cor. 9:7: Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Cor. 8:2-3: Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints.

#### Two Thoughts:

- We should serve and give of ourselves even though our joy may not always be great and our motives may be mixed.
- We should repent and seek forgiveness for any sinful attitudes, and ask God to cultivate a joy in our service for the building up of His kingdom.

#### B. Serve Without Feeling Useless or Discontent.

- In 1 Cor. 12, Paul rejects the idea that any member of the body is useless or less important than another.

1 Cor. 12:18: But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.

- We should not be discontent with the gifts that God has given us, but it is healthy to seek and strive for spiritual gifts that we do not have.

#### C. Serve Humbly.

- In 1 Cor. 12: 21-26, Paul admonishes those who have been given gifts of greater responsibility to exercise those gifts with humility.

1 Cor. 12:21: The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I don't need you.'

#### Two points of application:

- Regard service to others as a high privilege.
- Recognize and honor the service of members whose ministries might be "unseen" or "behind the scenes."

#### D. Serve to Glorify God and Benefit Others and Yourself.

Example – Giving Financially.

- Giving faithfully glorifies God by giving back to Him what is His and using his blessings for good works. Psalm 24:1.
- Giving faithfully benefits others by building up the church and meeting the needs of other members. Acts 4:32-37.
- Giving faithfully brings spiritual blessings to the giver. Malachi 3:10; 2 Cor. 9:8.

### IV. Two Further Points of Application

- Persevere in service through Christ's power

2 Thess. 3:13: But as for you brethren, do not grow weary in doing good.

- Consider the many formal and informal service opportunities at GRBC.