

Summary

In this sermon, Pastor explores the biblical command to 'serve one another in love' from Galatians 5:13-15 and 1 Peter 4:7-11. He emphasizes that Christianity is not meant to be practiced alone, but rather in community where believers serve each other using their spiritual gifts. The pastor shares personal stories of how church members served his family during his mother's depression, demonstrating how service not only honors God but creates a healthy church environment where people focus on mission rather than division.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather to discuss what it means to serve one another in love, open our hearts to Your wisdom. Help us recognize the gifts You've given each of us and show us how we can use them to serve others faithfully. May our discussion today lead us to a deeper understanding of how our service makes Jesus visible to the world. Guide our conversation and help us be receptive to what You want to teach us today. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What's one small act of service someone did for you recently that made a difference in your day?

Key Verses

1. Galatians 5:13
2. Galatians 5:15
3. 1 Peter 4:10
4. 1 Peter 4:11

Questions

1. The pastor mentioned Paul Ternier's quote that 'there are two things you cannot do alone: be married and be a Christian.' Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
2. How have you experienced the church serving you during a difficult time in your life?
3. The sermon suggests that when we're actively serving, we don't have time for division or criticism. Have you found this to be true in your own experience?
4. What spiritual gifts do you believe God has given you? How are you currently using them to serve others?
5. The pastor described how Dot Paris combined her spiritual gift of helps, her skill of crocheting, and her passion for babies to serve families in the church. What combination of gifts, skills, and passions might God be calling you to use?
6. How does serving others make Jesus visible to the world around us?

7. The sermon mentions that we should serve 'with the strength God provides.' What does this look like practically in your life?
8. The pastor compared the church to a mosaic where each piece is essential to complete the picture of Christ. How does this metaphor change how you view your role in the church?

Life Application

This week, take time to identify your spiritual gifts, skills, and passions. Pray about how these three elements might work together to create a unique way for you to serve others. Then, take one concrete step toward serving in that way - whether it's volunteering for a ministry at church, reaching out to someone in need, or finding a new way to use your gifts. Remember that your service isn't just about getting a job done; it's about making Jesus visible to others and bringing glory to God.

Key Takeaways

1. Serving one another in love honors God and creates a healthy church environment.
2. Every Christian has been given at least one spiritual gift by the Holy Spirit to use in service to others.
3. Effective service comes from combining your spiritual gifts, skills/abilities, and personal passions/interests.
4. We must serve with God's strength, not our own, acknowledging our dependence on Him.
5. When we serve one another, we make Jesus visible to the world around us.

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for the example of servanthood You set for us. We're grateful for the gifts, skills, and passions You've given each of us to serve one another in love. Forgive us for the times we've shelved these gifts or used our freedom selfishly. Help us to discover how we can best serve others and give us the courage to step out in faith. May our service to one another bring glory to Your name and make You visible to a world that desperately needs to see You. Strengthen us to serve not with our own power but with the strength You provide. In Your precious name we pray, Amen.