

THE PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE
Or, The Forty Weeks of Purpose
A Sermon Series Based on the Book by Rick Warren
Weeks Thirty-Two through Thirty-Four: You Gotta Serve *Somebody!*
Dr. Greg Tyree, BBC, AM, February 6, 2005

INTRODUCTION:

Rom. 12:4, 5:

⁴For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, ⁵so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

PROPOSITION: We must consider three things about Christian service if we are to truly be the kind of servants that please God.

I. CONSIDER YOUR ABILITIES FOR SERVING. Rom. 12:3.

For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

Climb the “twin peaks” of success...

- A. Personality and Passion
- B. Experience and Emotions
- C. Abilities and Attitudes
- D. Knowledge and Keenness
- E. Spiritual Gifts and Situations

II. CONSIDER YOUR ACTIONS FOR SERVING. Mark 10:43.

Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant.

- A. Real Servants Are Available Servants. 2 Tim. 2:4.

No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.

- B. Real Servants Are **Attentive** Servants. Gal. 6:10.

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

- C. Real Servants Are **Adjusting** Servants. Eccl. 11:4.

He who observes the wind will not sow, and he who regards the clouds will not reap.

- D. Real Servants Are **Assiduous** Servants. Col. 3:23, 24.

²³And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, ²⁴knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

- E. Real Servants Are **Always** Servants. Matt. 25:23.

His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

- F. Real Servants Are **Authentic** Servants. Matt. 6:1.

Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

III. CONSIDER YOUR ATTITUDE FOR SERVING. Phil. 2:5.

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus...

- A. **People**: Servants Think of Others, Not Themselves. Phil. 2:3, 4.

³Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. ⁴Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

- B. **Possession**: Servants Think Like Stewards, Not Owners. 1 Cor. 4:2.

Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.

- C. **Passion**: Servants Think of *Their* Work, Not What Others Are Doing. Rom. 14:4.

Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.

- D. **Purpose**: Servants Base Their Identity in Christ, Not in the Approval of Others. 2 Cor. 10:18.

For not he who commends himself is approved, but whom the Lord commends.

- E. **Privilege**: Servants Think of Ministry as an Opportunity, Not an Obligation. Ps. 100:2.

Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before His presence with singing.

APPLICATION:

Points to Ponder;

- God deserves my best
- I serve God by serving others
- To be a servant I must think like a servant

Questions to Consider:

- How can I make the best use of what God has given me?
- Which of the six characteristics of real servants (Main Point I) offers the greatest challenge to me?
- Am I usually more concerned about being served or finding ways to serve others?