

How Are We To Serve God ?

*Adverbial Admonitions Regarding Our Service**

Evangelist Doug Lowery

Our service to God needs to be according to the instructions of the Word of God. Often the service we render to God is done with the wrong attitudes and for wrong motives. The local church needs dedicated workers, who will have servants' hearts. This is a simple, but Scriptural, list of 10 ways that we should serve God.

HOW ARE WE TO SERVE GOD?

1. Reverently

"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." 1st Corinthians 10:31

Do all to the glory of God!!! The word, "glorify," means - "to give a right & high impression of." We do not do what we do to impress others with our talents or our dedication. Everything we do is to be done for God's glory and honor.

2. Steadfastly

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." 1st Corinthians 15:58

Do you stay at a job or are you a quitter?! That is not how you serve God! Start what you finish. Stick in there. Be steadfast -unmovable. Dr. Bob Jones Sr. said, "The test of your character is what it takes to stop you!" Sister verse-Galatians 6:9

3. Diligently

*Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;
Romans 12:11 (Emphasis mine)*

How diligent are you at serving God? Many are willing to work hard at their jobs when there is money involved; but, what about our labor for the Lord and for the advancement of the Gospel and our local churches when there is no pay involved? What is your worth ethic when it comes to the Great Commission?

Let me give four important aspects of diligence:

- *Perspiration - the vigor of your work*

- Promptness - the value of your work
- Initiative - the “2nd- mile-edness” of your work Matt. 5:41
- Excellence - the desire to give God your best work

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4. Fervently Again, Romans 12:11

Do you have any fire?! This word fervent is an interesting word.

There are 2 Greek words translated FERVENT:

Ektenes - denotes strained, stretched out; (Earnest) giving it all you got! (Like the track runner pushing to win at the finish line)

Zeo - to be hot, to boil (zeal) * the word here in Rom. 12:11! The two disciples on the road to Emmaus had the joy and privilege of walking with Christ for approximately 7 miles on resurrection Sunday afternoon. When Christ left them, their hearts were burning. (“And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?” Luke 24:32) Remember Christ said, “I would that ye were cold or hot”?! (Revelation 3:16) Do not be lukewarm in your service!

5. Heartily

And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;
Colossians 3:23

We just looked at fervently—now heartily. Ek-psuche - “out of the soul.” The idea here is doing something with all your heart and soul! We would say, doing something “enthusiastically.” **Are we dynamic and vibrant advertisements for Jesus Christ, or are we dull and lifeless robots going through the motions of service?!** Ask God to give you more enthusiasm! Do whatever you do heartily. Ecclesiastes 9:10a “Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might.” Many unsaved people put more enthusiasm into their temporal and worldly endeavors and activities than most Christians put into their eternal and Christ-honoring endeavors and activities!

6. Willingly

Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring me an offering: of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart ye shall take my offering. Exodus 25:2
Then the people rejoiced, for that they offered willingly, because with perfect heart they offered willingly to the LORD: and David the king also rejoiced with great joy. 1 Chronicles 29:9

These two Old Testament references deal with the children of Israel giving their money willingly. God wanted them to give willingly. King David rejoiced greatly that the people gave willingly. I am sure our King—the Lord Jesus Christ—also rejoices with great joy as we serve Him willingly. What is the opposite of willingly? Grudgingly – 2 Corinthians 9:7

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→ Reverently → Steadfastly → Diligently
 → Fervently → Heartily → Willingly

7. Cheerfully

“Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.” 2nd Corinthians 9:7
 “And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.” Acts 5:40-42

Cheerful in 2 Corinthians 9:7 is the Greek word, Hilaros (this is the sound of the Greek letters in English)!! We get our word, hilarious, from this Greek word translated, cheerful. “It signifies that readiness of mind, that joyousness, which is prompt to do anything!!” Anything?! How about suffering?! The early church rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for the wonderful name of Jesus Christ!

A smile and a joyful countenance is a major part of being cheerful. What is the big deal about a smile?! Listen to these three verses from Proverbs: “A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken. All the days of the afflicted are evil: but he that is of a merry heart hath a continual feast.” (15:13 and 15) “A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.” (17:22) Using Proverbs 15:13 and Ephesians 2:8 and 9 as Bible sources, I have come up with this saying, **“If you have been saved by grace, please inform your face!”**

Kohl’s department store hires “secret shoppers” to check up on their employees. One of the areas of violation—not smiling at the customers! Had you rather be working for Herb Kohl or Jesus Christ!? If Herb Kohl wants his employees to smile, would your Lord want you to frown while serving Him?!

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8. Humbly

“For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?” (1st Corinthians 4:7) “But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.” (1st Corinthians 15:10)

“God is sure lucky to have me!” is the attitude you see in the lives of some Christians. No, we are, at the best, unprofitable servants. (Luke 17:10) God is not looking for big-shots! (Study 1 Corinthians 1:26-31) King David, because of his special friendship with Jonathan, extended mercy and grace to the house of Saul. Ziba was sent out to search for any descendents of Jonathan. Even though Mephibosheth was the grandson of Saul (David’s mortal enemy), David took Mephibosheth in and had him eat at his table as one of the king’s sons. (This wonderful story is told in 2 Samuel 9. Let me share three of those verses with you here: “Now when Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, was come unto David, he fell on his face, and did reverence. And David said, Mephibosheth. And he answered, Behold thy servant! And David said unto him, Fear not: for I will surely shew thee kindness for Jonathan thy father’s sake, and will restore thee all the land of Saul thy father; and thou shalt eat bread at my table continually. And he bowed himself, and said, What is thy servant, that thou shouldst look upon such a dead dog as I am?” verses 6-8) None of us are worthy to stand before our holy God and eat at His table! God will not bless the work of a proud man or woman! Oh yes, the talent, drive and personality of the arrogant may take them far in the eyes of man, but God “resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” (James 4:6b)

9. Faithfully

Positive: *“Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?” Proverbs 20:6 “As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, so is a faithful messenger to them that send him: for he refresheth the soul of his masters.” Proverbs 25:13* **Negative:** *“Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint.” Proverbs 25:19*

Can you be counted on?! Are you reliable? When you say you will do something, do you follow through? There is an interesting verse in Psalm 15:4:

“In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the LORD. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not.” The last part of this verse is saying that you will keep your word even when it is to your disadvantage or discomfort to do so! Like the verse in Proverbs 20:6 says, *What a rare quality!*

- *Faithfulness is a righteous quality. Lamentations 3:23 “They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.”*
- *Faithfulness is a rare quality. Proverbs 20:6 (Quoted above)*
- *Faithfulness is a refreshing quality. Proverbs 25:13 (Quoted above—“as snow in the time of harvest...”)*
- *Faithfulness is a required quality (for spiritual leadership). 1st Corinthians 4:2 “Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”*
- *Faithfulness is a rewarded quality. Proverbs 28:20a “A faithful man shall abound with blessings:”* The Lord definitely blesses and rewards faithfulness! **Be faithful in your church attendance, Bible reading, prayer life, witnessing, giving, and in your service to your local church.**

10. Compassionately

But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

Matthew 9:36

One of the greatest examples of compassion in all of the Old Testament is the Apostle Paul. Acts 20:19-21 & 31 show us his heart for others: “Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews: And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house, testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.” (Acts 20:19-21 & 31) Someone has wisely said, “People don’t care how much you know, until they know how much you care.” “And of some have compassion, making a difference.” (Jude 22)

HOW ARE WE TO SERVE GOD? Make this a ✓ list for your personal service!

- **Reverently** → **Steadfastly** → **Diligently**
- **Fervently** → **Heartily** → **Willingly**
- **Cheerfully** → **Humbly** → **Faithfully** → **Compassionately**

