

Concern for Christ-Centered Service

Part 3

Colossians 1:24-25

“Every act of compassion and self-sacrifice on behalf of our brethren is a practical means of displaying the love of Christ.”

John MacArthur

Are we gaining a sense of God's **value** and **priority** for serving within the context of the local church?

There are all kinds of things **negatively** influencing the way we think about and respond to this question.

We need to have and apply **God's emphasis** on the **primacy** of the local church for our Christ-centered service to one another.

It is our privilege and mandate to ask,
“How can I bring my talents, gifts, and resources to serve the local church as I seek to serve the Lord?”

II. The Context of Christ-Centered Service (Colossians 1:24-25)

How are we to think biblically about
spiritual-family life?

Church life **bridges the gap** for us between living in this world and in our heavenly home in our life to come.

We are of God in Christ.

We were friends of this world,
which made us aliens and strangers to God.

Now in Christ we are friends of God so that
we have become aliens and strangers in this world.

*Do nothing from selfish or empty conceit,
but with humility of mind let each of you regard
one another as more important than himself;
do not merely look out for your own personal interests,
but also for the interests of others.*

Philippians 2:3-4

Living life as the Grace Church family is where we learn about and practice serving as God's family, so we can then take our **church life**, our **family-of-God life**, our **serve-one-another life** out there, where selflessness, sacrifice, and suffering **on behalf of Jesus** are totally foreign.

Worldly CEOs (Chief Executive Officers) are replacing
godly CEOs (Called, Equipped Overseers).

Professionals are replacing pastors.

In gathering as a local church to learn God's truth and be **reinforced** in it, in gathering to **worship** according to this **truth**, and in gathering to **apply** this truth in service to one another, we show ourselves hearers, heeders, and doers of God's Word.

We are **teachable**; we humbly honor God's priority of church life being our life in Him.

“Every week when we gather together to worship as the body of Christ, we are **practicing** what it means to be followers of Jesus and we are **preparing** to be citizens of a heavenly kingdom.”

Bruce Benedict

(emphasis added)

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