



Rhythms (Habits the Change You and the World)

Part 4

Romans 12:9-22

Sunday, September 27, 2020

The rhythm of service is a daily dying to selfishness. It is intentionally making ourselves available to Jesus and others. A distinguishing mark of a follower of Jesus is that of a servant.

*We are called, challenged, and equipped for serving the Lord. Our text today is the application of utilizing our spiritual gifts.

Setting the Scene

Prayer – How Can I Pray?

Regularly prayer walk in your community

Service – How Can I Serve?

Look for ways to serve Jesus

Love – How Can I Be a Good Neighbor?

Intentionally look for ways to build relationships

Calling – How Can I have a stronger family?

Intentionally schedule family nights

¹⁵ Moses built an altar there and named it Yahweh-Nissi (which means “the LORD is my banner” Exodus 17:15)

A banner inspires courage. Raising the banner of service points people to Jesus. People may never thank you here on earth but will thank you in heaven. Serve not for recognition but the smile of God on your life.

1. Service Calls for Sincere Action (Romans 12:9-16)

When we are motivated by hypocrisy—falsehood and deception—thoughts, motives, behavior, and priorities, all get twisted backward. And if we can't achieve our hypocritical objective, we just pretend to be a better person, enact that perception, and live a lie.¹

- Let your service be heartfelt.

The Call to Be...

- Be Just – Hate What is wrong. Love is not blind.
 - Be Real – Do not just pretend, be the real deal
 - Be Caring- Serve Like the People around you are family.
 - Be Passionate – Laziness can be translated, “To delay.”
 - Be Generous – Hospitality is an extension of generosity to strangers.
 - Be Different – Ask God to bless your enemies.
 - Be Present – Be happy with those who are happy, weep with those who weep.
 - Be Humble – Do not show preference to people.
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- God's Word calls us to prioritize the good of others over our comfort or status. How can we do that? How can we regularly be willing to make ourselves less for the sake of making someone else more?

¹ Runge, S. E. (2014). [High Definition Commentary: Romans](#) (p. 220). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

2. Service Calls for Extreme Love (Romans 12:17-22)

⁴³ "You have heard the law that says, 'Love your neighbor' and hate your enemy. ⁴⁴ But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! ⁴⁵ In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. Matthew 5:43-45

The normal response is to retaliate, but Christians are called to serve and minister God's grace to a lost and hostile world. Jesus is our model. As much as possible, we are to **live at peace with everyone.** ²

- Love Your Enemies
- Serve Your Enemies
- Bless Your Enemies
- Leave vengeance to God
- Peace is not the absence of conflict; it is the presence of love.
- Conquer evil by doing good.

One Last Thought: Choose to surrender to Christ's Way of doing things. People around will be blessed, and in the end, you will be glad you did.

² Patterson, P. (2017). [Salvation in the Old Testament](#). In E. A. Blum & T. Wax (Eds.), *CSB Study Bible: Notes* (p. 1801). Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers.