

We Serve to Connect

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[Matthew 20:20–28](#) (NKJV)

...²⁴ And when the ten heard it, they were greatly displeased with the two brothers. ²⁵ But Jesus called them to Himself and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. ²⁶ Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. ²⁷ And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—²⁸ just as **the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.**

For all that Jesus has done for us, setting us free from sin, and delivering us from near-death situations. He has and continues to bless us financially. He has and will continue to heal our physical bodies. Above all, He has blessed us beyond measure spiritually. *And because of His glory and excellence, He has given us great and **precious promises.** These are the **promises** that enable [us] to share His divine nature and escape the world’s corruption caused by human desires* (1 Peter 1:4). Therefore, our response should be gratuitous! A spontaneous, complimentary, voluntary, costless, pro bono response for the service Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ has rendered to us!

I. Why do we need to serve?

A. He had a purpose to fulfill

1. “***the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.***”

2. [Luke 19:10](#) (NLT) *For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.*

3. [2 Corinthians 2:3](#)

^{NLT} *Clearly, you are a letter from Christ showing the result of our ministry among you. This “letter” is written not with pen and ink, but with the Spirit of the living God. It is carved not on tablets of stone, but on human hearts.*

4. **Why are you here?**

B. How should we serve?

1. With humility and meekness

- **humility** is a personal quality in which an individual shows dependence on God and respect for other persons (Holman Bible Dictionary).
- [Colossians 3:12–15](#) (NLT) *Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.*¹³ *Make allowance for each other's faults and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.*¹⁴ *Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony.*

2. With No Reputation

- [Philippians 2:3,4](#) *Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves.*⁴ *Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.*
- [Philippians 2:5–11](#)(NLT)
- Humility comes before Honor!

See also - [2 Corinthians 10:18](#); [Galatians 5:13–15,22,23](#); [Ephesians 4:1,2](#).

II. Having All Things Common

A. Our service to the local church and the Body of Christ is a **gift**!

- [Romans 12:7](#)(NLT) - *7 If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well.*

B. We Serve for God's Glory

- [1 Peter 4:7–11](#) (NKJV)
⁷ ***But the end of all things is at hand; therefore, be serious and watchful in your prayers.***⁸ *And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.”*⁹ ***Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.***¹⁰ ***As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.***¹¹ *If anyone speaks, let him speak as the*

oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

- C. We must pay attention and understand the times we are living in.
- The modern-day Church is on the verge of experiencing [Acts 2:44; 4:32-35!](#)

III. Service through Intercession

- A. **Intercession** is praying for the spiritual condition of another!
- 1 Timothy 2:1-4 exhorts, *I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf and give thanks for them. ² Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. ³ This is good and pleases God our Savior, ⁴ who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth.*
- B. Jesus continues His mediation, prayer, and advocacy for us before the throne of God.
- [Ro 8:34](#) *Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.*
 - [Hebrews 7:25](#) (NLT) *He is able, once and forever, to save those who come to God through him. He lives forever to intercede with God on their behalf.*
- C. Are we willing to take the **hit** for someone else; another brother or sister in the Lord? Are we willing to go out and run interference and serve another person?
- [Philemon 8-22](#) Paul intercedes to restore Onesimus to Philemon's household and to secure Philemon's forgiveness for the runaway slave...
 - [1 Tim 2:1](#), "I exhort, therefore, first of all, that supplications, prayers, intercessions, thanksgivings, be made for all men"; where the different kinds of prayers appear to be..."

Jonathan Warren P. (Pagán), “Jesus’ Intercession,” in *Lexham Survey of Theology*, ed. Mark Ward et al. (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2018).Intercession.

Holman Bible Dictionary.

The New King James Version (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1982).

Tyndale House Publishers, *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2015).