



***"Worship, Grow, Serve"***  
**Sermon Date: January 15th, 2011**

**Prayer:**

Father, you have given us so many wonderful truths in your Word, yet we so often stumble around as if we are in the dark. Overcome our hearing-impaired, sight-impaired, mind-impaired, and heart-impaired natures as you reveal to us what is true and right, holy and perfect, and that which is worthy of adoration. Give us a glimpse of Christ that we might in turn blaze with light in and through Him. Help us know you better. Open our eyes as you show us, teach us, and unveil who you are to us. Help us never to be content with knowing a bit about you, rather, help us to truly know you. We pray this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, by whom we have graciously been brought out of darkness and into your light.

**Review:**

There are three words that drive everything we do at Living Grace Community Church: Worship, Grow, and Serve. Every year, for the first three sermons of the year, we focus on each of these three words, their meaning and implications. The last couple weeks have been spent looking at what is meant by "worship" and what is meant by "grow." Take a few minutes to think about what Brian has said in regard to worshipping and growing, and consider how you can seek the Lord's help in progressing in each of these (for more information on what each of these words means at Living Grace please go to the website - <http://www.livinggracebakersfield.com/> - and click on the pictures at the bottom of the home page). Prayerfully keep these things in mind as we turn to study the third and final of the three words – "serve."

**Scripture:**

**Mark 10:35–45 –**

*"And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" And they said to him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized, but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.""*

## Handling the Word:

1. Define the word “serve” using whatever resources you have available to you.
  
2. Look up the following passages and write down what you learn in regard to the what, why, who, when, and how of serving according to Scripture.

### What is biblical serving?

Matthew 25:34-40 –

Luke 10:25-37 –

Galatians 6:2 –

1 Thessalonians 4:18 –

James 2:14-17 –

James 5:16 –

### Why should we serve?

Mark 10:35-45 –

John 12:26 –

John 14:15 –

Acts 20:35 –

Galatians 6:1-10 –

1 Peter 4:10-11 –

### Who should we serve?

Matthew 25:31-46 –

Romans 10:13-15 –

Galatians 6:10 –

### When should we serve?

Titus 3:8 –

Hebrews 3:13 –

Hebrews 10:24-25 –

### How should we serve?

Romans 12:10-13 –

Galatians 5:13 –

Philippians 2:4-7 –

## **Understanding and Applying**

1. Based on what you read in the verses above about serving, honestly answer the following questions about what serving looks like in your life:

Does serving in my life match the biblical portrait?

Why am I serving in the ways that I am?

Who am I serving currently?

When am I serving? Is it regular or sporadic?

How am I currently serving others?

2. What are the reasons that believers are often distracted from serving the Lord in the ways clearly laid out in Scripture? Are there ways your life can be reorganized so that serving others takes on more of a priority?

3. In what ways have you looked upon the church with a “consumer mentality,” thinking, “what’s in it for me,” rather than, “in what ways can I give my life in service to others?”
  
4. What does serving look like at Living Grace? Why is it an integral part of all that we do?
  
5. Are you presently serving in some capacity in the church? Do you consider your service within the church to be optional and voluntary or as a privilege and responsibility before God?
  
6. Is service within the church simply the responsibility of the leaders or is it the responsibility of all those who consider themselves part of Christ’s church? Explain ways in which the false distinction between clergy and laity has negatively impacted your desire to get involved in certain service opportunities within the church.
  
7. Is service something that only takes place in the church and for the benefit of those who belong to the church? Explain your answer using Scripture.
  
8. Explain the relationship between the good news of Jesus Christ’s life, death, and resurrection, and the what, how, when, who, and why we serve others (1 John 3:16-18)?

*“Good duties must not be pressed out of us as the waters came out of a rock when Moses smote it with his rod; but must freely drop from us, as myrrh from the tree, or honey from the comb.”*

*Thomas Watson*