

BEST GIFT EVER!

Part 5

First grace, then more!

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand (Rom. 5:1-2).

An Amazing Gift!

- ▣ To all who step into the darkened circle, God gives a new heart.
- ▣ This new heart produces the ability and desire to serve God.

Principle #1: When the world “serves,” their actions are compromised by self-service.

P1 – Self service “service”

- ▣ **You can serve for profit:** *“You have said, ‘It is vain to serve God; and what profit is it that we have kept His charge, and that we have walked in mourning before the Lord of hosts?’” (Mal. 3:14).*

P1 – Self service “service”

- ▣ Profit motives: Reputation, Offset, Toe-hold
- ▣ If you can’t hear God, you don’t know what is in another’s best interest.



Principle #2: Only genuine followers of Jesus can truly serve - and they do.

P2 - Only Saints Can Serve

- ▣ *For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God (1 Thess. 1:9).*

P2 - Only Saints Can Serve

- ▣ *We serve in newness of the Spirit (Rom. 7:6).*
- ▣ *“My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples” (John 15:8).*

P2 - Only Saints Can Serve

- ▣ **Objection - I am not fit for His service:** *I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor (1 Tim. 1:12-13).*

P2 - Only Saints Can Serve

- ▣ **Objection - I blew it:** *Pick up Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for service (2 Tim. 4:11).*

P2 - Only Saints Can Serve

- ▣ **Objection - I am not strong enough:** *Whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen (1 Pet. 4:11).*



Principle #3: True service promotes, as much as it depends on me and without regard for personal cost, the things God wants to accomplish in others.

P3 – Promote God’s Agenda

- ▣ *See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people (1 Thess. 5:15).*
- ▣ We need God’s help to ID what is in another’s best interest!

P3 – Promote God’s Agenda

- ▣ We are only responsible for our part.
- ▣ Cost is no object!



Principle #4: To follow Jesus is to follow the ultimate servant.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless (Ephesians 5:25–27).

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

...Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, ...Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross (Phil. 2:3-8).

"You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you" (John 13:13-15).

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45).

Principle #5: Love is what drives our service.

P5 - Love Drives Service

- ▣ *Through love serve one another (Gal. 5:13).*
- ▣ Love promotes another's best - This fuels our service of others.
- ▣ At a more fundamental level, it is love for God that motivates us to serve God by serving others.

Principle #6: True servants know how to go small.

P6 – Serve Small

- ▣ **Small acts** – *“For whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because of your name as followers of Christ, truly I say to you, he will not lose his reward” (Mark 9:41).*

P6 – Serve Small

- ▣ **From small people:** *Sitting down, He called the twelve and said to them, “If anyone wants to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all” (Mark 9:35).*

Principle #7: True servants train to get better at serving.

P7 – Train to Serve

- ▣ **Three Levels of Difficulty:** Do what the world disapproves; serve at personal expense; serve in what might be resented by the one served.

P7 – Train to Serve

- ▣ **Key Process:** Discern what God wants in someone, tap into Word guidance, and deliver!

Principle #8: It will be **SO** worth it!

P8 – Worth it!

- ▣ *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord (1 Cor. 15:58).*

P8 – Worth it!

- ▣ **Deed Forwarding:** *“And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by means of the wealth of unrighteousness, so that when it fails, they will receive you into the eternal dwellings” (Luke 16:9).*

P8 – Worth it!

- ▣ **A Glimpse of Heaven:** *There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him (Rev. 22:3).*

P8 – Worth it!

- ▣ **Does this make sense:** *“Blessed are those slaves whom the master will find on the alert when he comes; truly I say to you, that he will gird himself to serve, and have them recline at the table, and will come up and wait on them” (Luke 12:37).*

