



Christians are to be Servants!

▶ Introduction:

- I. I came across an article in which robbers stated their excuses after they got caught stealing.
  - A. Here are a few of their statements:
    1. “I only mug rich people who won't be affected by the loss.”
    2. “I don't have enough money to buy those things legally.”
    3. “In my family, robbing someone is a rite of passage.”
    4. “I'm poor, so in a way, robbing the rich makes me like Robin Hood.”
    5. “We're Not Stealing, We Thought Everything Was Free!”
  - B. Is it not interesting that thieves attempt to justify their behavior by what sociologists call “neutralization.”
    1. One way to neutralize a crime in your mind is to attempt to equate your wrongful actions to the idea that the owner is wrong for possessing what you want.
    2. The concept of “entitlement” is one of the leading forms of “neutralizations.”
    3. A thief will rationalize their robbery by saying that they were “entitled” to what other people possessed!
  - C. Our society is developing into an entitlement culture.
    1. That does not mean that everyone is considered becoming a robber or thief however we can still develop the attitude of entitlement!
      - a. Someone might believe that the employment guidelines of working up the ladder do not apply to them. They are entitled to have a top executive job immediately.

- b. Or someone else might feel “put out” when their friends, co-workers, or family ask them for small favors however they are entitled to ask others for similar favors.
  - c. Others might become upset when individuals speak unkindly to you however you are entitled to speak against people when they do not fulfill your wishes.
2. I believe that we need to look closely at ourselves and be sure that we do not have this entitlement attitude creeping into our thinking and behavior.

II. Yet, I believe that this is especially true in our Christian lives.

A. We need to be very careful not to allow an entitlement attitude to invade our Christianity.

- 1. Christianity is not an entitlement but rather a very special and awesome gift.
- 2. Our salvation is offered to us by the wonderful grace of Deity.

Ephesians 2:8

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is the gift of God,*”

- 3. If we received what we are truly entitled then salvation would not even be a consideration.

Romans 3:23

“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”

Romans 6:23

“For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

B. What a privilege to be a Christian! Yet with this privilege we have great responsibilities!

- 1. We as Christians are called by God to service!

I Thessalonians 1:9

“For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to **serve** the living and true God,”

- 2. We have the obligation to fulfill our individual service to God!

Colossians 4:17

“And say to Archippus, “Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it.””

III. In our lesson this morning I want us to explore the responsibilities that we have in serving the Lord!

Discussion:

- ▶ I. The Lord's church is a realm of activity!
  - A. This truth is recognized by the various designations used to describe Christians.
    - ▶ 1. Jesus related that as Christians we are to be a "branch" that bears fruit for Him. (John 15:1-8)
      - a. If we are not bearing fruit then Christ relates that we will be cut off from the branch.
      - b. So, Christians are to be serving the Lord by producing other Christians!
      - c. This is fulfilling the Great Commission! The Lord before leaving this earth to return back to Heaven directives us teach go and teach others. (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16)
    - ▶ 2. Paul describes Christians as being farmers.  
  
II Corinthians 9:6  
"But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully."
      - a. Farmers are some of the hardest workers you might ever encounter.
      - b. We ought to be working as Christians just as diligently as a farmer.
    - ▶ 3. Christians are called soldiers.  
  
II Timothy 2:3-4  
"You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of *this* life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier."
      - a. We admire a soldier for their dedication and commitment.
      - b. A soldier must be well conditioned and is always on the job!
      - c. Plus, they must stay focused to their task and the adversaries that might be against them.
    - ▶ 4. And another description for a Christian is that we are athletes.  
  
I Corinthians 9:24-27

“Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain *it*. And everyone who competes *for the prize* is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a perishable crown, but we *for* an imperishable *crown*. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as *one who* beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring *it* into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.”



B. Our aim should be to do the will of God!

1. Jesus provide us an example in that he followed the will of His Father.

John 6:38

“For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.”



2. Doing God’s will pleases God.

II Corinthians 5:9

“Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him.”



3. Challenge yourself to look into our heart and look at your behavior.

- a. Are you active in your Christianity or are you a non-active Christian?

- b. Please do not put your soul in jeopardy due to being inactive or sitting back and thinking you are entitled to salvation.

- c. Jesus related what will happen during Judgment to those that are working for Him and those that do not.

Matthew 25:31-46

“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.

All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides *his* sheep from the goats.

And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.

Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in;

I *was* naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’

Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed *You*, or thirsty and give *You* drink?’

When did we see You a stranger and take *You* in, or naked and clothe *You*?

Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’

And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did *it* to one of the least of these My brethren, you did *it* to Me.’

Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink;

I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.’

Then they also will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?’

Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do *it* to one of the least of these, you did not do *it* to Me.’

And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

- ▶ 4. We are responsible for doing what we can!
  - a. We all have different talents and abilities and God expects us to use our talents for His cause, for His kingdom.
  - b. The parable of the talents is an example of using what we have in serving the Lord. (Matthew 25:16-30) You remember that the master punished the servant that did not use his talents (money) even to just earn interest.
  - c. When our Lord returns and calls us to judgement, will you be rewarded for working and serving Him with your abilities or will you be punished for not serving Him?

▶ II. As faithful Christians we must have an attitude of gratitude in being able to serve God.

- A. I hope that you are thankful for your jobs.
  - 1. Are you appreciative of the ability to provide for our family and for yourself.
  - 2. If you begrudge having to go to work every day then ask someone that has lost their job how they feel. Ask someone that does not know how they are going to pay their next bill.
  - 3. We sometimes have difficult days at work, we all do; yet should we not be thankful for the blessing of our jobs?
- B. And it is equally true in our work and service for in the church!

1. God has blessed us with a gift that is greater than anything we can even imagine!
2. So because we have received God's grace then we have a job to do!

I Timothy 1:12

"And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting *me* into the ministry,"

3. We must have an initiative and enthusiasm for the work we do for the Lord.
4. Paul encourages his readers to give to the Lord with a heart filled with cheerfulness and appreciation. Giving is more than just money, we can give our time, our efforts, and our service to the Lord as well.

II Corinthians 9:7

"So let each one *give* as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver."

5. Having an attitude like that of the people of Israel during the time of Nehemiah when they were rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem is a must in our hearts.

Nehemiah 4:6

"So we built the wall, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its *height*, for the people had a mind to work."

6. Friends, let us make sure that we are servants and that we be persistent in our service to the Lord!

Galatians 6:9

"And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart."

- C. Challenge yourself to be God's servant. Challenge yourself to work in His church, His Kingdom with great commitment and endeavor!

▶ Conclusion:

- I. We are not entitled to simply take life easy, sitting back with no care in the world.
  - A. We are Christians and therefore we have an awesome responsibility to honor and serve our God!
  - B. As Christians we are to be at God's disposal.

C. We many times sing the song: “Make Me a Servant!”

“Make me a servant, Lord, make me like you;  
For You are a servant, make me one too.  
Make me a servant, do what You must do;  
To make me a servant, make me like You.”

II. This morning I have challenged us to look in our hearts and examine your life!

A. I have asked every Christian to look at their lives and truly recognize if indeed you are the servant that you ought to be.

1. If you are doing that and you recognize that you are not doing what you ought to be doing. Then recognize that you can repent!

2. You have the ability to change and make sure that you are God’s servant, His useful worker in His kingdom.

B. If you have been examining your life and recognize that you have not obeyed the Lord in becoming a Christian, then why are you waiting?

1. There are several of us that would love to show you God’s message in how to accept His grace and become that servant for Him.

2. If you have studied and know what to do but just have been putting it off; then why are you waiting? Accept the Lord grace through obeying and serving Him.

C. If we can assist you this morning let it be known by coming down to the front as we together stand and sing!