

WHY WE SERVE GOD

There are many reasons why we do things in life... some prove to be right and some wrong. There are also right and wrong reasons why we serve God. The following observations should prove to be helpful by reviewing and confirming the reasons why we serve God.

Firstly we will look at common, but non productive reasons why people serve God.

1. To Earn Salvation. *This is a common error... salvation cannot be earned... it is a free gift... of grace and mercy.*

EPH 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is the gift of God:*

9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

2. Fear or Guilt. *These two motivators are the most debilitating reasons to serve God... they are infectious and build churches on a false foundation. Splits and divisions will follow.*

1JOH 4:18 There is no fear in love; but **perfect love** casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

1JOH 3:20 For if our heart **condemn** us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.

3. Pride or False Loyalty (ignorance). *An ego out of control is guaranteed to cause damage in relationships and church health. Mindless loyalty undermines the growth of yourself and those you serve.*

MAR 10:44 And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be **servant of all.**

MAT 15:14 Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, **both shall fall into the ditch.**

2TIM 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

4. Pressure. *"There's no one else to do the job" is the wrong reason to serve. Perhaps the job needs to be intentionally neglected so that others see and respond to the need or duty. When such intentional neglect is done in faith and not as an excuse for avoiding responsibility... it can be a very healthy, long term strategy for building a church.*

EPH 4:16 From whom (*Christ*) the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

5. To Please People. *We are all tempted on occasion to please people instead of God. This doesn't eliminate our responsibility towards hospitality or supporting the weak in stressful times.*

GAL 1:10 For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.

Genuine Reasons to serve God

1. He asks us to serve him. *The creator of the universe wants us to work and live with him.*

JOH 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

JOH 15:16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

2. We love and respect him. *When we consider what Jesus has done for us and what he is yet to do... we should be overwhelmed with love and admiration... and desire to put him first!*

1JOH 4:19 We love him, because he **first loved us.**

JOH 14:21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

3. He gives us life with abundance... we are happier and more contented... we are secure.

MAT 11:28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will **give you rest.**

JOH 10:10 ...I am come that they might have **life**, and that they might have *it* more **abundantly.**

1PET 1:8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see *him* not, yet believing, ye rejoice with **joy unspeakable** and full of glory:

4. Others will enjoy the benefits that we love. *God wants the whole world to hear and live in the gospel... we serve them!*

1TIM 2:4 Who will have **all men** to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

1JOH 4:21 And this commandment have we from him, That he who **loveth God love his brother** also.

5. Jesus Christ is soon returning. *He is coming to give eternal life to those that are his, to save the world from annihilation and to usher in a new world government.*

2PET 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

11 Seeing then *that* all these things shall be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought ye to be in *all* holy conversation and godliness,

12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.