



Creating a Culture of Service

Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. Mark 10:43-45

Many have no faith in God and have lost confidence in man. But they appreciate acts of sympathy and helpfulness. As they see one with no inducement for earthly praise or compensation coming to their homes, ministering to the sick, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, comforting the sad, and tenderly pointing all to Him. As they see this, their hearts are touched. Gratitude springs up, faith is kindled. They see that God cares for them, and as His Word is opened they are prepared to listen.
Ellen White Medical Ministry p. 247

It seems people don't necessarily remember what they are told of God's love, but they never forget what they have experienced of God's love.
-Steve Sjogren

The presence of the Lord is not an idea to be mastered in the context of a book, but a heart knowledge which becomes real as we minister to others. M.C Richards

Kindness is a language which the dumb can speak, the deaf can understand – C.N Bovee

Service is a choice we all face:
We either serve ourselves or others;
We serve our own desires or serve God
-John and Agnes Sturt

- We live in a society with value systems that, for the most part, are self-focussed and move people away from serving.
- Ironically, the very thing that Jesus says we will find meaning in 'service' is what the values of our society move people away from.
- Christian service is an expression of unconditional love, through serving Christ and serving others.
- Jesus, the perfect servant and Servant King modelled service and calls us to be his servants. The apostles took this seriously, calling themselves 'slaves of Christ.'
- Often we see service as just an event as opposed to a lifestyle. We can be part of a service project and then return to our self-focussed life.
- Service has to be expressed in the whole of our lifestyle. This can be expressed through friendship, hospitality, marriage, parenting and prayer. The principle of service underlies every aspect of healthy living.
- This is not to say that projects are not important, they are extremely valuable, we just need to set them in the context of a lifestyle of service.
- Service projects are valuable for:
 - Creating outward focussed teachable moments
 - Serving together to achieve what we could not do alone
 - Cultivating values that extend to a lifestyle of service
 - Linking people to service opportunities
 - Making a difference to the people being served
- Many people serve out of guilt, ambition or attempting to prove worth. We need to grow people to serve out of love for God and people.

Steps Toward Creating a Serving Culture

1. Pray for it
2. Be intentional about growing people spiritually. People serve when they are connected to God's heart and living His values.
3. Model it in your lifestyle
4. Teach/Preach/Inspire serving values (serving is an act of worship)
5. Have a process for people to learn giftedness and how they are 'wired up' to serve. (Connections, SHAPE)
6. Illustrate what it looks like in various life contexts
7. Personalize it – People need to see the issue on a personal level, see how their lifestyle either moves them toward or away from serving.
8. Mentor your leaders for promoting serving in their ministry areas and encourage them to think through how they will create serving opportunities.
9. Synergise serving throughout the ministry areas of the church.
10. Fund it on a church wide scale
11. Schedule it into the life of the church
12. Reinforce it – reinforce the good things that are happening

***When a church serves
the world's needs,
it is a visible expression of the
love of Christ
to an onlooking world.***

Useful Resources

Burrill Russell, *Revolution In the Church*, Hart Research, 1993

Campbell Wesley & Court Stephen, *Be A Hero*, Destiny Image, 2004

Cousins Don and Poling Judson, *Friendship With God* Zondervan, 1992

Hybels Bill, *Honest To God*, Zondervan, 1990

Hybels Bill and Wilkins Rod, *Descending Into Greatness*, Zondervan, 1993

Ortberg John, *If You Want To Walk On Water – Get Out Of The Boat*, Zondervan, 2001

Ortberg John, Pederson Laurie and Poling Judson, *Giving* Zondervan, 2000

Sjogren Steve, *Community of Kindness*, Regal 2003.

Sjogren Steve, *Changing the World Through Kindness*, Regal 1996.

Sjogren Steve, *Irresistible Evangelism*, Group, 2004

Sturt John & Agnes, *Celebrating Service*, Eagle 2000.

White Ellen, *Christian Service*, Pacific Press

White James Emery, *You Can Experience A Spiritual Life*, Word 1999