A Serving Church The Importance of Church – Part 5 Life Church St. Louis – March 5, 2017 Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

Galatians 5:13-14 (NIV) You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

1. You are part of the _____ of Christ

1 Corinthians 12:12-13 (NIV) Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body-whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

1A. Each believer is a _____ part of the body

1 Corinthians 12:14-15 (NIV) Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many. Now if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body.

1B. God has arranged the parts to together

1 Corinthians 12:18 (NIV) But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.

1 Corinthians 12:26 (NIV) If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

2. Understand your _____ in the church

1 Corinthians 12:27 (NIV) Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

2A. Don't think too of yourself

Romans 12:3 (NIV) For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.

2B. Don't think too of yourself

Romans 12:4-6a (NIV) For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.

3. Choose to use your gifts to

Romans 12:6b-8 (NIV) If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

3A. Become a of Life Church

1 Peter 4:10 (NIV) Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

3B. Serve on a team

1 Peter 4:11 (NIV) If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Action Plan for This Week

□ Have a daily quiet time of Bible reading, prayer & writing. □ Mon □ Tue □ Wed □ Thu □ Fri □ Sat □ Sun

How will I obey God's Word this week?

A Serving Church Study Guide

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Intro. Why do you think that in many churches, attenders are more often spectators than participants?

According to Galatians 5:13-14, what does it mean to "serve one another humbly in love" in the church?

Explain the opposite choice in Galatians 5:13-14 which is to "indulge the flesh."

What are some ways that believers can serve one another in the church?

- 1A. How is the body of Christ like the human body (1 Corinthians 12:12-13)?
- 1B. Why is it important that the parts of the body of Christ have different functions (1 Corinthians 12:14-15)?
- 1C. How does God place people in a local church as He wants them to be (1 Corinthians 12:18)?
- 1D. In what ways do different believers in the church affect one another (1 Corinthians 12:26)?

- 1E. Why is important for every member of the body of Christ to work together with the rest of the members?
- 2A. Is it possible for a believer to not function as part of a local body of Christ? Why or why not?
- 2B. What impact does someone thinking too highly of themselves have on the local body of Christ (Romans 12:3)?
- 2C. What impact does someone thinking too little of themselves have on the local body of Christ (Romans 12:4-6a)?
- 2D. How do you discover what gifts God has given you to serve others in the church family?
- 3A. What is the point of the commands in Romans 12:6b-8 related to serving?
- 3B. How does becoming a member of Life Church enable you to use your gifts to serve (1 Peter 4:10)?
- 3C. According to 1 Peter 4:11, how is God involved in using your gifts to serve? What are the results of serving in the church?
- 3D. In what ways can committing to be a member of Life Church enhance your spiritual growth?