

OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

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SERMON TITLE

Everybody Plays a Part

SERIES

DATE

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KEY SCRIPTURE

Eph. 4:16; Matt. 20:28

SYNOPSIS

The body... grows & builds itself up... as each part does its work

HIGHLIGHTS



👉 EVERYBODY PLAYS A PART

I want you to imagine something with me. Picture a big family dinner. You know the kind: Thanksgiving, Christmas, or maybe just Sunday at grandma's house. Everyone's gathered around. The table is full of food. But instead of everyone pitching in, imagine one person doing it all...

Grandma's in the kitchen... she cooked all the food, she set the table, she carried the heavy dishes out, she poured the drinks, served the plates, and then, when everyone was done eating, she cleared the table and washed all the dishes too. Meanwhile, everyone else was in the living room scrolling their phones, watching the game, or just waiting to be called when the food was ready.

Doesn't that seem wrong? That's not how family works. A healthy family shares the load. Somebody sets the table. Somebody brings the dessert. Somebody clears the dishes. Everybody helps, and when everybody helps, nobody burns out and the family grows closer in the process. We had those kinds of assignments growing up. Set the table, clear the table, wash the dishes, put everything away. We took turns taking out the garbage and mowing the lawn. Of course, as kids, we got annoyed with it at times, but it was way better than being the only one doing it all. Family works together and shares the chores.

👉 Now here's the truth: **the church is God's family**. And just like a family dinner, it only works the way it's supposed to when everybody plays a part.

Not only is this a family, but Ephesians 4:16 tells us: "From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work." Paul is giving us this image of the church as a body. Think about your body: it only works when every part does what it's designed to do. If your eyes work but your legs don't, you can see where you want to go but you can't get there. If your hands work but your heart stops, well, you've got a real problem.

👉 Every part matters. Every part has a role. **We are the body of Christ**, and when every part does its work, the whole body grows stronger, healthier, and more effective.

That's the church. Some of us are the hands, serving and helping. Some of us are the mouth, teaching and encouraging. Some of us are the feet, going out to share the gospel. Some of us are 👉 the ears, listening, praying, comforting. And here's the best part: no part is unnecessary. **All parts are needed.**

Now, why do we serve in the first place? Because that's what Jesus did. Matthew 20:28 says: "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." If there was ever someone who deserved to be served, it was Jesus! But He flipped the script. He said,



"I didn't come to sit back while others take care of Me. I came to get on My knees, wash feet, heal the sick, feed the hungry, and lay down My life."

☞ So, **when we serve, we look the most like Jesus**. Serving isn't just something we *do*; serving is part of who we are as His followers, because we want to be more like Jesus.

Sometimes serving seems mundane. It feels like all you're doing is picking up after someone, or just straightening chairs. But somebody new might come in and have a place to sit without being annoyed by a messy, dirty building.

It might feel like all you're doing is trying to control the chaos with infants and toddlers. But you're actually making it possible for young parents to hear the Word of the Lord without interruption. And, you're helping to set a foundation on the Word in a young mind.

It might seem that all you do is put on a smile and open a door, but for someone that might be the friendliest greeting they've had all week.

Being a techie might feel obscure and stressful, but you make the order of service run smoothly and you help people worship without distraction. And on and on it goes.

Church, there are no "small" jobs in God's kingdom. Every act of service has eternal impact. Don't forget, you're ultimately serving Jesus!

Why Serving Matters

☞ **Serving grows you**. When you serve, you discover gifts you didn't know you had. You step out of your comfort zone. You learn humility. God shapes your character when you give of yourself.

☞ **Serving blesses others**. Your smile at the door might be the reason someone feels welcomed enough to come back next week. Your work with children might be the reason a child grows up knowing Jesus loves them. Your willingness to run sound might be the reason someone hears the gospel clearly. The food you help distribute might be the reason someone knows that God cares about their daily needs.

☞ **Serving glorifies God**. Every time you serve, you point people to Jesus. You're saying, "It's not about me, it's about Him."

Serving isn't just filling a slot. It's being part of God's story in this place. Now, I know what some of you are thinking: *"I don't have time." "I don't have the right skills." "I'm too young." "I'm too old."*



☞ But here's the truth: **God doesn't call the qualified; He qualifies the called.** Moses said, "Lord, I can't speak." God said, "I'll be with you." Gideon said, "Lord, I'm too weak." God said, "I'll strengthen you." The boy with five loaves and two fish might have said, "This isn't much." Jesus would have said, "Watch what I can do with that." All God needs is your yes.

Today, after service, we're giving you an opportunity to say yes. We've got sign-up sheets for different ministries... nursery, kids church, greeters, ushers & security, singers, musicians & techies, food pantry, café, and clean team. There's a place for everyone.

This is not about guilt. This is not about filling slots. This is about joining the family dinner. It's about saying, "This is my church. This is my family. I'm not just going to sit on the couch while someone ☞ else does all the work. I'm going to **be part of what God is doing here.**" Because in this family, everybody plays a part. And, if you're feeling inadequate, remember God will enable you, plus, our leaders will help train you. Be a part of what God is doing in the world. It's bigger than just a bit part in a small-town church.

There's a legend about a man walking past a construction site. He asked three workers, all brick-layers, what they were doing. The first said, "I'm laying bricks." The second said, "I'm building a wall." But the third smiled and said, "I'm building a cathedral."

That's what serving in the church is like. It's more than a mundane task. It has eternal impact, no matter how small it may seem. Remember, you're ultimately serving the Lord. You're not just holding babies in the nursery. You're shaping the next generation. You're not just greeting people at the door. You're opening the way for someone to encounter Christ. You're not just cleaning and tidying up. You're preparing a place for someone to hear the gospel.

☞ So, here's my question: **What part will you play?** Don't miss out. Don't stay on the sidelines.

☞ **Sign up. Step in. Serve.** Because when everybody does their part, the church grows, God is glorified, and the world sees Jesus more clearly.

Family, the table is set. Let's serve together.