

OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

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SERMON TITLE Improving Your Serve

SERIES

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KEY SCRIPTURE Acts 20:35; Ephesians 4:13; Matthew 20:25-26

SYNOPSIS Are you a church critic, consumer, or contributor?

HIGHLIGHTS



☞ Improving your Serve

There are basically three kinds of people in the church: **Critic; Consumer; Contributor**

☞ **The Critic** sits on the sidelines and basically does nothing but evaluate everyone else. This person is constantly looking for faults in others. They tend to be negative about everything.

A boss commented to his secretary about one of his men: "Harry has such a bad memory, it's a wonder he remembers to breathe. I asked him to pick up a newspaper on his way back from lunch, but I'm not ever sure he'll remember his way back to the office." Just then Harry burst in the door, brimming with enthusiasm. He exclaimed, "Guess what, boss! At lunch I ran into old man Jones who hasn't given us an order in seven years. Before he left I talked him into a million-dollar contract!" The boss sighed and looked at his secretary, "What did I tell you? He forgot the newspaper."

It's one thing to offer helpful suggestions when you're knee deep in the situation, but it's entirely another to never offer a hand while you just pick things apart.

--Abraham Lincoln... He has the right to criticize who has the heart to help.

☞ **God has called us to play the game, not to keep the score.**

Philippians 2:14

Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure...

☞ **The Consumer** is the one who focuses on themselves. "What do you have to offer me?" "What's in it for me?" "I'll come to church as long as it meets my needs."

--Charles Kingsley... If you wish to be miserable, think much about yourself; about what you want, what you like, what respect people ought to pay you, and what people think of you.

The consumer ought to be in the choir, because they're always saying "me, me, me."

☞ **Acts 20:35**

the Lord Jesus himself said: **'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'**

Philippians 2:4

Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Many Christians suffer from loneliness because they are sitting instead of serving.

☞ **The Contributor** is the one who is concerned for others. They want to help out and offer a helping hand. Sometimes we think being a Christian is only about faith, but in reality, the Lord is also very concerned about the things we do.



Revelation 2:2

I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance.

Revelation 2:19

I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first.

Revelation 3:1

I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead.

Revelation 3:8

I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut.

Revelation 3:15

I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other!

God's plan for the Church includes serving

☞ **Ephesians 4:13** reminds us the reason God called apostles, prophets, evangelists and pastors... to prepare God's people for works of service. **All believers are called to serve.**

We are pardoned from sin, but we are not excused from service.

The purpose of gifts and talents is to serve. 1 Peter 4:10 says, "Each one should **use whatever gift he has received to serve others...**" You may say, "I don't have any great talents; I can't sing or teach..." Everyone has something they can do. Jesus demonstrated this in John 13 when he washed the disciples' feet. That was a very basic, even lowly job, but he did it. And, he explicitly said he was setting an example to serve others. If you claim to be a Christian, then you are supposed to follow his example. 1 John 2:6 says, "Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did."

☞ **Kingdom greatness is measured by serving. Matthew 20:25-26** Jesus said, **whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant...**"

So, which is it? Are you the Critic, the Consumer, or the Contributor?

It's a common saying that within the church 20% of the people do 80% of the work. It's great that some people are willing to invest so much time into the Lord's service, but the truth is the Lord has given each of us abilities to use in the service of the Kingdom.

☞ **What would the church be like if everyone served at the same level as you?** Would there be plenty of help or would there be lots of gaps? Sometimes we are so focused on ourselves that we do not have time to serve the Lord.



Ministry could never happen without the faithful service of so many people. From those who teach, to those in the nursery, to those who set up coffee and those who lead worship, all of the ministry you do is important. You're not just greeting someone at the door... you're potentially giving hope to a person in deep depression. You're not just babysitting in the nursery... you're making it possible for a young mother to hear the word of God and be transformed into the image of Christ. Your small act of service could have an eternal impact.

We're in this together. It takes a lot of people to do everything God has called us to do.

☞ **"Many hands make light work."** We got a glimpse of this just a few minutes ago when we honored all of you who help to do all the ministries our church has. Thank you for all your ministry. You are making a difference. You are affecting eternity. If you are not involved, **check out the ministry fair**. Don't just look at the sheet and decide what you want to do. Pray about it and see what God asks you to do.

☞ **Use what you have for God!**

It was DL Moody who said, "I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And that which I can do, by the grace of God, I will do."