

## INSIGHT

In today's fast growing economy, companies are finding it harder and harder to stay on top. Successful businesses are those that have learned the secret of serving: *meet the needs of your potential customers!* A successful businesses target the needs of the community, then develop a top quality product that will meet that need, and finally, service that product to make it available. Businesses link their success to an ability to target, meet and support their customers needs.

Just like a company that profits through its service, Christianity profits through servanthood! Jesus came to meet our needs (salvation); we, in turn, are called to meet the needs of those around us!

Jesus demonstrated how to be a profitable citizen in the kingdom of God by washing the feet of His disciples (*John 13:5*). Christ taught us that greatness does not come by being served, but rather, by serving (*Luke 22:26-27*). The key to happiness is found through serving and following Christ's example. For: **Servitude Elevates Life** - *"Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all."* (*Mark 10:43-44*)

**Servitude Shows Neighborliness** - *"Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."* (*Luke 10:36-37*)

**Servitude is Christ Like** - *"Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. "* (*John 13:14*)

**Servitude Demonstrates Love** - *"Again Jesus said, 'Simon son of John, do you truly love me?' He answered, 'Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.' Jesus said, 'Take care of my sheep.'" John 21:16*

**Servitude Lightens Life's Burdens** - *"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers"* (*Gal 6:10*)

Therefore, be a servant. Meet the needs of those around you! By serving, you will know the joy of God!

### ***The Royal Law: Loving Relationships Overcoming Negative Emotions***

#### **Key Text:**

**Luke 22:27**

*"For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. "*

#### **Theme:**

Happiness is achieved in the fulfillment of one's true purpose. We, in Christ, are called to be servants of the Lord Almighty and to serve Him wholeheartedly. A true servant of God is one who serves others. We are taught this in the parable of the Good Samaritan (*Luke 10:30-37*). Jesus calls us to be people who serve. Christ is called the "light of the world" (*John 8:12*) because He came to meet the needs of sinners like you and me! We, in turn, are called lights of the world (*Matt. 5:14*) because, just as Christ served us, we too ought to serve both the community of saints and sinners. For we are a ministry! A community of servants! And where their is service, there is joy in the Spirit!

#### **Application:**

*Here are some practical suggestions:*

1. **Target.** Make yourself aware of the needs of others around you. Focus on a particular brother or sister that can use your help!
2. **Meet the need!** Be determined to meet the needs of those who are hurting! Make it your personal goal to serve them! Your love for your brother, sister or any one else will be displayed by your action. If you truly love them you will become their servant.

3. **Be Supportive!** Be willing to put others before yourself, care for them, weep with them, laugh with them, pray with them! Remember, we are called to honor one another above ourselves! (*Rom. 12:10*)

**May the Lord richly bless you!**

### SERMON OUTLINE

#### Overcoming Negative Emotions

*“If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself,’ you are doing right. But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers” James 2:8-9*

#### Practical Ways To A Loving Relationship

##### I. Last Week: Key To Closer Relationship

###### A. Suffering (*Romans 5:3-4*)

1. Suffering is influential
  - a. It produces patience
  - b. It proves (integrity)
  - c. Christ’s suffering brought us to God
2. Suffering brings out the best in people
  - a. It brings compassion and empathy (*2 Cor. 1:3-7*)
  - b. It brings closeness (builds compassion)

##### II. Overcoming Negative Emotions

###### A. Minister To The Needs Of Others!

1. *Luke 22:26-27*
  - a. Greatest person is a person who serves
  - b. Christians are called to ease others
  - c. This is the key to spiritual happiness

###### B. The Pursuit of Happiness: A worldwide goal

1. Reasons for unhappiness
  - a. We choose not to be happy
    - Circumstances don’t make us this way
    - We must assume responsibility (*Ja. 4:1*)
  - b. We are all alike: Seeking happiness
  - c. Here is where we fall:
    - i. Like a light bulb we plug ourselves:
      1. Into people (husband, wife, children,...)
      2. Into places (homes,cities,towns,...)
      3. Into things (jobs, talents,...)
2. Make serving your focus!
  - a. Happiness is a by-product of service
  - b. Service brings success

- Seek to help, not happiness
- Service will produce happiness

#### III. Conclusion: *1 Peter 2:16-17*

1. Be servants of God
  - a. Honor (value) everyone!
  - b. Love unconditionally (agapé)

### SMALL GROUP STUDY

#### Warm-up:

Share with us a time when you aided someone who was in desperate need of your help. How did that person feel after you helped them? How did that make you feel?

#### See To It

#### 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

- 1- What does the word *compel* (NIV) or *constrain* mean? Why is the love of Christ compelling?
- 2- What does the love of Christ compel us to do?
- 3- Explain verse 15. What is Paul inferring here? What kind of life must we lead?
- 4- Read verse 16. What are some of the *worldly point of views* of Christ and Christianity in the 1990s? You may want to include some of your thoughts prior to your conversion. After meeting Christ, what is your view of Christ and Christianity now?
- 5- Read verse 18. What were we given? What does the word *ministry* mean?

#### Seeing It Closer

- 1- What must be every Christian’s goal? Why?
- 2- What are people looking for? How can we promote the gospel in the lives of people?
- 3- **Read Matthew 5:14-16.** What seems to be the emphasis here? What should we be seeking?
- 4- How can we promote men to glorify God? What must we do in the midst of meeting their needs?

#### Getting To It:

Serving is the key to greatness. If we seek happiness in things that cannot satisfy (that is, any person, place or thing), we are bound to fail. Like the song says, “My

*hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness; I dare not trust the sweetest frame (person?), but wholly lean on Jesus' name!"* Is this true for you? Christ is our happiness! Christianity is Service!