

Serving Together
Being the Church | 1 Peter 4:10-11
Southern Hills Baptist Church
Jun 11, 2017

Introduction: We live in a consumer-driven culture. We are pelted with ads from every angle and have countless options for every purchase. We have very much come to expect to be able to get exactly what we want with every purchase we make and sadly this mentality has bled over into the way many view and interact with the church. Many come to churches looking for what they can get over what they can give. This approach to the church largely misses the point of who we are and carries a perspective largely colored by consumerism. What you can give is every bit as important as what you receive in the church. We are called to servanthood in the body of Christ.

Serving from God's Grace with God's Gifts (vs. 10)

- **God Equips for His Call:** God's varied grace has been poured out on us, which has manifest itself with gifts that have been given to us that we may serve one another.

1 Peter 4:10
Flow of
Thought



- **Varied Grace:** God's grace is varied, diverse, complex. He does not bless His children with a cookie cutter version of grace, it is uniquely poured out to give you a tailored set of giftings.
 - **Unique Service:** Only you can serve in the way that you serve. Your personality, perspective, passion, talents will all come shining through when you serve, culminating with a unique impact.
 - **We Need You:** With this being true, we need you. God, in His sovereign wisdom, has placed you here because He knows we need a You! We need what God has gifted you to bring.
 - **You Need Us:** God has imparted these spiritual gifts for a reason. They are to serve others in the body of Christ. Live out your calling in the church and as the church.
- **Missing God's Grace:** If God's grace is poured out on us to produce gifts we may serve one another in the body with, to be withdrawn from the church is to be withdrawn from a significant expression of God's grace. Don't miss out and don't hold out on that grace!

Serving by God's Strength (vs. 11b)

- **Ongoing Strengthening:** The Greek verb for "supplies" (χορηγεῖ) is : present, active, indicative, meaning it is ongoing. The strength supplied to serve is not a one time allotment, but an ongoing gift to ensure we always have what we need to live out our calling to serve!
- **A Sweet Promise of Strength:** God's promise to strengthen His children for a life of obedience is found all throughout the Bible, ex. 2 Cor 9:8; Phil 4:13, Isa 40:28-31.
 - **More than a Luxury:** Peter states that we are to serve out of the strength that God supplies. Meaning all of our service is to be done out of a heart that is motivated by a love for God. God doesn't merely want people who are busy with their hands, rather He wants people who have hearts full of love for Him, so much so, that it fuels the movement of their hands.

Serving for God's Glory (vs. 11c)

- **The Purpose of Serving:** God's purpose in our serving is that He would be glorified, i.e. that His beauty and goodness would be on display.
- **Owner of Glory:** Why is it important for God to receive glory? Because it belongs to Him (vs. 11d). Glory is His. Glory finds its definition and origin in Him.
- **Raised Stakes:** With every act of service designed to bring God glory there are no small acts of service. Each act of service is performed before the King of kings and Lord of glory. This brings incredible meaning to even the smallest acts of service you do!

Applying the Truth of 1 Peter 4:10-11

1. What is your gifting?

There are many who never seek this out in their lives, but you must. God has given you these gifts for a reason. He has given you these gifts to serve others and to glorify His Name. We are depending upon you. Your gifts are meant to be an expression of God's grace to the larger body, don't deprive us of that.

2. Where do you serve?

How are you using the gifts that God has given you? Some only serve on their terms, which is a bit ironic when you think about it. Service isn't about you, it is about meeting others needs and glorifying God. Put your gifts to work!

3. Do your gifts glorify you or God?

How often do you find yourself making sacrifices to meet the needs of others? Are your gifts used to bring comfort to others? How often is your gifting put to work for the needs of others?