

"TFT Bible Class will equip you with Christain values, principles and doctrines with the aim of transforming you to become an effective disciple in the ministry of Christ."



TOPIC 3.5.2

HOW AND WHERE CAN YOU SERVE IN THE COMMUNITY?



Matthew 5:13a,14&16 (NKJV)

"You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden... Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

WHY MUST WE SERVE OUTSIDE THE CHURCH?

1. God expects us to add value (salt) and make a difference (light) in our communities- by means of good works that we do, utilizing our gifts, talents, competencies, and passion, despite the "darkness or staleness" that the world may be in currently.

It is through our good works of service to our communities that we bring glory to God, our Father in heaven. Our communities are in need of hope, they are in need of peace and love. These are all things we carry inside of us as believers because we have Jesus in us and so we need to let the river of life inside of us flow into our communities

John 7:38 (CEV)

"Have faith in me, and you will have life-giving water flowing from deep inside you".

We have life inside of us and it would be selfish of us to not give that life to our communities.

2. God commanded us to go out and make disciples. Often times when we restrict ourselves to only serving in church, we miss out on the mandate to teach others about Christ.

Matthew 28:19(a)(AMP)

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations [help the people to learn of Me, believe in me, and obey My words]"

In the scripture above, it is clear that we ought to go to all nations and not only confine ourselves to the church walls. The nations that we need to impact are often not in the church but outside the church.

Making disciples does not mean that we always shove our Christianity down people's throats, but it means our Christ-like actions outside the church can help others learn who Jesus is, believe in Him and obey His words.

As a famous quote once said "You are the only Jesus someone may ever meet" so represent Him well.

3. Serving outside the church develops the spirit of humility within us and for us to glorify God in anything we do, we need to be meek and less self-serving.

When we serve the less fortunate by either cooking for them, cleaning their homes, or even helping to renovate their homes we become meek in spirit because we learn that it is not about us, it is all about God and serving others.

Proverbs 22:4(EASY)

"You should be humble. You should respect and obey the Lord. Then you will receive riches, honour and a long life."

Proverbs 3:34(b)(AMP)

"Yet He gives His grace [His undeserved favor] to the humble [those who give up self-importance]"

If you struggle to serve outside the church and get your hands dirty because you feel like you are better than that, be careful, the spirit of pride may be knocking at the door of your heart. Do not give it any power.

Genesis 4:7(b)(NLT)

"...But if you refuse to do what is right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master."

Proverbs 11:2(CEV)

"Too much pride can put you to shame. It's wiser to be humble."

If Jesus was willing to get His hands dirty by washing the feet of the disciples, so should we.

4. Serving outside the church disciplines our flesh desires.

When we serve and sacrifice our time to serve our communities, we are closing the gap that could lead us to rather spend our time in works of the flesh (sin). In addition, serving outside the church also teaches us to be selfless because you need to be able to put the needs of others before your own.

Philippians 2:4(NLT)

"Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too."

Putting the needs of others before our own goes against human nature which is prone to be self-pleasing. Thus, the more we serve outside the church, the better we become at dealing with other sins because we practice sacrificing our flesh through serving.

Galatians 5:16(CEV)

"If you are guided by your spirit, you won't obey your selfish desires"; (TPT): "Let me emphasize this: As you yield to the dynamic life and power of the Holy Spirit, you will abandon the cravings of your self-life"

Romans 6:11(CEV)

"In the same way, you must think of yourselves as dead to the power of sin. But Christ Jesus has given life to you, and you live for God."

5. Serving outside the church builds within us the spirit of courage and we also become better servants within the church.

The more we serve outside the church the less fearful we are to take risks and be bold in our lives. I have found that the more I serve outside the church, the more courageous I become in all other areas of my life.

If you are struggling with fear, serving outside the church can be the gateway to address that fear because it pushes you approach people, approach organizations and approach big companies to ask for sponsorships or donations for you to give back to the community.

Isaiah 41:10(a)(AMP)

"Do not fear [anything], for I am with you; Do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, be assured, I will help you."

The more we serve outside the church we also become better servants within the church because we are more patient, understanding and more loving.

6. God begins to trust us with more kingdom resources because He knows that we will not be self-ish with what He gives us, we will share with others and display His love.

Proverbs 22:9 (EASY)

*"If you are kind to poor people and you share your food with them,
God will bless you."*

Proverbs 19:17 (CEV)

"Caring for the poor is lending to the Lord, and you will be well repaid."

Although we do not serve to get anything in return, it is humbling to know that your good deeds will allow God to not only pay you back but to also trust you with more resources of the Kingdom. He knows that He can trust you with more because you will sow back to His kingdom by using His resources to serve others.

HOW CAN YOU SERVE OUTSIDE THE CHURCH?

There are different ways to serve outside the church. It is important to first understand that serving outside the church does not to be extravagant, it is in the small acts of kindness that you perform everywhere you go.

1. Pray and ask God to reveal to you a gap that exists in your community that you can fill.
2. Volunteer for organisations such as NPOs (non-profit organisations), children's homes or homes for the elderly in your community. They are always looking for an extra hand to help either with admin, cooking or cleaning. You don't need to have any qualification just a heart that is willing to serve. You don't have to volunteer all the time but maybe sacrifice one or two Saturdays in a month to serving the community.
3. Think of your gifts and talents and offer those to organisations that are looking for volunteers. Some NPOs do outreach work and they need a photographer; you may be good and taking pictures and building a good social media page for that NPO to be able to get more sponsorships. Maybe you are good at packing and organising items, you could offer your time to help a home organise or tidy up their kitchen or clothing cabinets.
4. You can identify a need in your community and start your own NPO/ organisation that gives back to the community. Or you could gather a few people you know and collect donations of clothes and blankets and take those to a home or family that is in need.
5. Pageantry. Pageants are empowering platforms through which to serve the community. Not only are they great platforms to build your confidence and a positive image of yourself so that you see yourself the way God sees you but they teach you to have a heart of service.
6. Ultimately, serving outside the church is not tricky. It's all about finding a gap and filling it.

*"Before you tell them about the God you serve, let them meet Him through your acts of service."
-Tsakane Sono*

*"Anybody can be great because **anybody can serve**. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You don't have to know the second theory of thermodynamics to serve. You only need **a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love**"*
-Martin Luther King, Jr