

Oasis Core Value #3 – Serving

by [Derek R. Iannelli-Smith](#), August 2008

At our [website](#) under the “About Us” tab, I outline these core values. I list a brief outline of ‘serving’ as follows;

“...acknowledging that Christian service is God-centered (Col. 3:23-24), others-focused (Gal. 5:13), characterized by humility (Phil. 2:3-4), empowered by the Spirit of God (1 Peter 4:10-11).”

A great scripture that outlines a God-focus on serving is found in;

1Co 3:5-9 ESV What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. (6) I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. (7) So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. (8) He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. (9) For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.

Since starting this series, I must share an E.G.G. (Evidence of God's Grace), in that one of the saints who is attending Oasis, was prayerfully motivated to provide a VERY THOROUGH outline of the Oasis acronym and I want to share that and I will go back and edit the previous articles to incorporate these changes as well. Why? Because everything that Oasis is...is represented by this ‘caregiver’ and her heart with this work. Her study I place below in outline form as it was presented;

Serving

serve

Help, aid, assist, attend, service, maintain, sustain, and repair, to give reverence to, as God

Serve

Deu 6:13 ESV It is the LORD your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and by his name you shall swear.

Jos 24:14 ESV “Now therefore fear the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD.

Mat 6:24 ESV “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

Mat 20:26-28 ESV It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, (27) and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, (28) even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Mar 10:45 ESV For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Rom 7:25 ESV Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

Heb 9:13-14 ESV For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, (14) how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

Serve the Lord

Exo 23:25 ESV You shall serve the LORD your God, and he will bless your bread and your water, and I will take sickness away from among you.

Deu 10:12-13 ESV “And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, (13) and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD, which I am commanding you today for your good?”

1Co 7:35 ESV I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord.

Service

Eph 6:5-8 ESV Slaves, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, (6) not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, (7) rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, (8) knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free.

These verses reflect the very thing that they outline. A servant. A significant document and audio that Oasis has been impacted by is by Mark Mitchell (Sovereign Grace Ministries, Worship God 2006 Conference) called, “[Sanctified through Serving](#)” and [2006 Starting Point New Members Manual](#) of Covenant Life Church in MD.

Off the cuff, just a few thoughts based upon a couple of days of meditation on serving;

Serving is not;

- a. ...checking a box, did my duty, did my part and I am good with God or making a spectacle before others.
- b. ...doing something because you HAVE TO or even a questionable WANT TO do something under the guise of ‘ministry.’
- c. ...based upon compulsion, manipulation, or charisma of someone, a leader, strong or contagious personality or fear of man.
- d. ...pity, giving your unwanted excess, ‘service projects’ or ‘outreach’ (which in actuality is saying that your better than the person/agent being served) or tipping God or others.
- e. ...coming up with ideas, votes, plans, or additional duties for someone else that God has clearly shown you that you need to do or intentional passive participation.
- f. ...doing something to be noticed by others, for recognition, for acknowledgement, or out of jealousy or competition.
- g. ... convenient.

Serving is (notice these are the opposite of their counter parts)

- a. ...worship.
- b. ...doing something because you GET TO.
- c. ...based upon humility, brokenness, and a contrite heart that does not need to be asked, told, or reminded.
- d. ...thankfulness that someone has shared their life with you, a gift, a kindness, and mercy, and understanding that it takes humility to receive, and be allowed to provide, and maybe even acknowledging that strength of the recipient by the grace of God you could be there too/or have been.
- e. ...being intentional, not needing to be asked, putting together the resources to make the plan happen whether or not you ‘obtain permission’ or approval of others.
- f. ...is behind the scenes, prayerful, silent, and intentional.
- g. ...inconvenienced with time, talents, resources, pride, uncomfortable, and realizes that EVERYTHING is a sovereignly ordained divine appointment.
- h. ...allowing others to serve you.

I close with this EXCELLENT excerpt from the “Starting Point” manual;

“We should serve God not just because it is a duty, because serving him is much more than that. We should serve God because it glorifies God. He is worthy of everything we can do for him and his church. Wouldn’t you agree?” — Donald Whitney

B. The Requirements of Christian Service

The grace of God expressed through the cross of Christ provides the primary basis for our service to God. When this is the case, our servanthood will be characterized by certain qualities that both provide godly motivation for service and assure that our service is glorifying and pleasing to God.

1. Christian service is God-centered. *When we serve other people, whether they be fellow Christians in the local church or non-believers in our lives, we are actually rendering service to God himself. This reality helps to purify our motives for serving, helping us to put to death the isolation that comes from selfishness and the craving for others’ approval that comes from pride. Colossians 3:23-24: “Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.”*

2. Christian service is others-focused. *When serving is motivated by grace, it will not be self-serving, but rather characterized by an authentic desire to glorify God and to meet the needs of others. Few things so distort our service than selfishness, but grace-motivated service actively places the desires of God and the needs of others above one’s own.*

Galatians 5:13: “For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.”

3. Christian service is characterized by humility. *True servanthood adopts a posture that others are more important than self. A servant doesn’t demand recognition or dictate how he is to serve, but rather takes simple delight in being used by God to meet the needs of others.*

Philippians 2:3-4 “Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”

4. Christian service is empowered by the Spirit of God. *The believer not only labors for God, but by the power God provides. Dependence upon God for motivation, strength, and effectiveness in serving assures that God receives the glory for our service. God gives each believer spiritual gifts that motivate and empower our service for his glory and others’ good.*

1 Peter 4:10-11 “As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies- in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.”

These are the things that outline the heart of a servant at Oasis and the reason it is a core value.

E-mail devotional:

Saints,

I just wanted to let you know that I am thankful and praying for you. Below you will find this week's Inspirational E-mail. I pray you will enjoy it and forward this thought on to your friends as well as offer them an invitation to a 'church' this weekend. Thank you for taking a moment to read our weekly newsletter.

This week we continue with our 5-part devotional outlining the core values of Oasis. These 'devotionals' accompany articles that I will be posting on my [personal blog](#) if you desire to go deeper on the topic. This week's topic is SERVING (click here for [OUTWARD](#), [AUTHENTIC](#)). Serving at 'church' is a badge, a totem, a prestigious seating rather than the biblical intention. When you ask Christians what it means to 'serve' many provide the good Sunday school answer, but are passive, apathetic, and inward in focus when one digs further. Why is that? How did such a good thing turn into such a flesh award? *There are to be no passive participants in the church. Indeed, one of the express purposes of our salvation is to rescue us from an existence leading to death and to set us free to serve God: "...how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God."* (Heb. 9:14) *Serving is therefore a God-given expectation of every Christian. But it is much more than merely a duty; what higher privilege is there than to give one's life in glad service to our gracious, sovereign God who saved us?*

1. Something to drink...

Off the cuff, just a few thoughts based upon a couple of days of meditation on serving;

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- g.inconvenienced with time, talents, resources, pride, uncomfortable, and realizes that EVERYTHING is a sovereignly ordained divine appointment.
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Questions to ponder this week:

- a. How would you define SERVING?
- b. Which of the “serving is not” list are you convicted of? Which of these would your wife, husband, kids, co-workers, etc say are your reasons for serving?
- c. Which of the “serving is” list would you like to grow in? What would the body of Christ affirm as evidences of God’s grace in your life in the area of serving?

2. Admin stuff:

- a. We are finished with the [Future Church](#) but this coming week we will be summarizing, and creating a board of thoughts of what our ‘future church’ looks like.
- b. Saturday morning we will be “[Meeting our Neighbors](#)” again for the Aug 30th cookout. If you would like ‘meet your neighbors’ contact me before Saturday to coordinate.
- c. Men’s Tribe will meet this week at 6:30pm at a local coffee shop. Remember, the audio, “[Be A Man](#)” by Paul Washer is required listening for the discussion. Write/call for details if you would like to attend. The tribe has decided this format for our time (it has been growing and changing each week...which is a good thing... 1)get something to drink 2) laugh, 3) opening prayer, 4) Whoever got asked a ‘[warm and fuzzy question](#)’ last week, gets immunity this week, but is able to ask a W&FQ this week, but must... 5) pray for the brother who was asked the W&FQ specifically, 6) what is said in the group, stays in the group.
- d. We have a person who will watch the kids for [Fireproof!](#)
- e. [The Way of the Master One-Day Evangelism Crash Course!](#) Derek & Connie are going, who want to come, we can carpool together?
- f. [Angel Food Ministries](#) – pickup is on Saturday this week. Way to go Oasis on purchasing 7 of these to serve others!

3. Prayer Requests (PR) and Community Needs (CN): I wonder if God wants you to serve a need mentioned below.

- a. Updated prayer requests can be found at: <http://oasisgc.wordpress.com/prayer-board-facts/>
- b. CN: A family needs some home ceiling support work; it will take cash, time, and tools.
- c. CN: A single father needs a car so that he can take care of his kids, and get a job.
- d. CN: A family requires some work on their A/C unity along with some parts.
- e. Remember to always be...

stunned by the gospel,
Derek R. Iannelli-Smith

[Oasis Website](#) – [Oasis Facebook Group](#)

"Oasis...where relationships are a mess worth making..."