

Churched: We Serve (1 Peter 4:10-11 & other references)

- One of the major privileges and responsibilities given each member of the body of Christ is to serve the Lord by serving others with the spiritual gifts God has given you. Churched disciples actively serve together as God's equipped and empowered servants.
- Disciples of Jesus Christ exist to bless mainly three people:
 1. We bless our God with a lifestyle of worship.
 2. We bless the lost by sharing with them the life-transforming good news.
 3. We bless our spiritual family (the church) with energized fellowship and service.
- Ministering to others with your time, energy and gifts provides a great blessing to all people.
 - It models Christ's Church fifth core value to Serve Others (The value of using one's spiritual gifts to benefit the body of Christ and others in need)
 - It helps us all become "better" disciples of Jesus Christ
 - It honors God's will for us as explained in Eph. 4:16
- 1 Peter 4:10-11 and other passages highlight the foundational elements for serving others as God has equipped us to do:

1. **You're an included servant** (1 Peter 4:10a: "As each one...")

- Christianity is an "each one" faith.
 - a) If you're in Christ, you are chosen by God (1 Peter 1:1; Col. 3:12)
 - b) If you're in Christ, you are a contributor for God (1 Cor. 12:7, 11; Eph. 4:16)

2. **You're an indebted servant** (1 Peter 4:10a: "has received a special gift, employ it...as good stewards of the manifold grace of God")

- Notice the two key words: "receive" and "stewards"
- There are two things to note about your indebtedness:
 - Your serving gift comes with empowerment ("you received a special gift"). A spiritual gift is a supernatural enablement given by God at salvation for the purpose of ministering to the body of Christ
 - God gives everyone a gift
 - God determines what gift(s) you receive (1 Cor. 12:7, 11, 18)
 - Nobody has the same gift as you do (1 Pet 4:10: "of the manifold grace of God")
- Your serving gift come with expectations ("as good stewards"; 1 Cor. 4:2)

3. **You're an interdependent servant** (1 Peter 4:10a: "employ it in serving one another"): We are dependent upon each other and need each other

4. **You're an incentivized servant** (1 Peter 4:11)

- Let's God's glory incentivize you (1 Pet. 4:11). Serve others to honor God first and foremost.
- Let's God's grace incentivize you (1 Cor. 15:10). Serve others because you know its beyond your own strength and God will grace us with His.