

October 2, 2016

Week 04 – Improve Your Serve (Dr. James Mead, NWC)

Here is a snapshot of Jim Mead's message on Sunday:



### Our Service is Grounded in Christ's Ascension

- ▶ <sup>7</sup> But to each one of us **grace** has been given as Christ **apportioned** it.<sup>8</sup> This is why it says:
- ▶ “When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people.”
- ▶ <sup>9</sup> (What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? <sup>10</sup> He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.)<sup>11</sup> So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip his people **for works of service**, so that the body of Christ may be built up <sup>13</sup> until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole **measure** of the fullness of Christ. (Eph 4:7–13)

See also Psalm 68:18. Paul shows how Jesus turns victory upside down and shares spoils of victory with us by giving the Spirit gifts to give to us...

1. Look at verses 11-13 above – what do they say about loving service? When loving service happens, what kinds of things are accomplished?

2. So, what are some of the outcomes of loving service? Just create a short list here:

### Our Service is Governed by the Spirit's Activity

- <sup>4</sup>There are different kinds of gifts, but **the same Spirit** distributes them.<sup>5</sup> There are different kinds of service, but the **same Lord**.<sup>6</sup> There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the **same God** at work.<sup>7</sup> Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. . . .<sup>12</sup>Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.<sup>13</sup> For we were all baptized by **one Spirit** so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the **one Spirit** to drink.<sup>14</sup> Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many (1 Cor. 12:4–7, 12–14).



**3. The words, “one” and “same” occur repeatedly in these verses above. What does this passage teach us about loving service in the body of Christ?**

### Our Service is Guaranteed by the Father's Affirmation

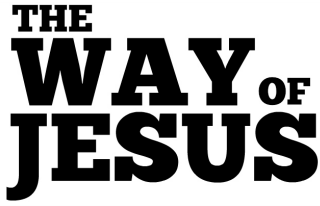
- <sup>9</sup>At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.<sup>10</sup> Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.<sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven: **“You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased”** (Mark 1:9–11).
- <sup>1</sup>Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is **your true and proper worship** (Romans 12:1).



**4. For those of you who heard Dr. Mead's message, what did he say about the Father's affirmation of us, through Jesus? How should this affect our view of serving the Lord?**

**5. How can we tell if we are serving out of love, or if we are just**

- being people pleasers?
- seeking our own agenda?
- trying to control outcomes?
- to build our own image?
- to get something in return?



## **Small Group Discussion Guide**

- 6. In your group, share some of the ways you have served, out of a loving motivation, and then honestly share a time when you were serving from somewhere else, other than love...**
  
- 7. Why is it so hard for us to be selfless, when it comes to serving others?**
  
- 8. In the Antiboxes, the service piece is replaced by “IMAGE”. How can we learn to not worry about our “image”? (hint: the answer might have something to do with love!)**
  
- 9. Finally, what does Philippians 2:1-8 teach us about serving others?**

**Pray that God allows you to serve purely, out of love, and not self.**