

DATE: Saturday - Sunday, June 27-28, 2020

SERIES: LIVING IN THE PARENTHESIS: *Steps to a Joyful and Meaningful Life*

SERMON: Learning to Serve

Romans 12:3-13

[3] For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.

[4] For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function,

[5] so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

[6] We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith;

[7] if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach;

[8] if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

[9] Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

[10] Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

[11] Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.

[12] Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

[13] Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality

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Learning to Serve . . . Every Christian is:

1. Every Christian: a _____.

- *Hebrews 9:14* How much more shall the blood of Christ ... purify your conscience from dead works to serve the living God
- *Psalms 100:2* Serve the Lord with gladness!
- We are each responsible for _____ in the name of Christ.

2. Every Christian: _____.

- The Holy Spirit brings _____ with Him
- *1 Corinthians 12:4, 11* There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

3. Every Christian: a _____.

- *1 Peter 4:10* Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.
- Serve for the _____.

4. Every Christian: _____ by the _____.

Lagniappe

We all know the need for *patience*.

When I think of the fruit of the Spirit, I am drawn to the quality of patience. I am drawn there because I often feel so inadequate with patience. You may feel the same - frustration and aggravation sometimes seem to take over.

But it may not be patience that I need. What I really need is *perseverance*, this is the meaning of the word we normally translate as patience.

I need to persevere.

I need to be long-suffering.

I need to not quit and not give up.

I need to stand strong under the pressure.

Perseverance and long-suffering are exactly what I perceive that we all need right now. We need it in our lives, and we need it as the church. We have all worked hard to keep going since March 13, but we may be getting weary in well-doing.

It's natural for us to get weary. After all, if that were not the case, Paul would not have written to encourage us to keep working and serving.

I want to encourage you to keep on. Don't give up on yourself and don't give up on Christ and His church. Be found faithful and obedient.

These are tough days, but our God is faithful. He will see us through until we hear, "Well done, good and faithful servant!"

WAYLON