

Let's Talk CHANGE DEVOTIONALS



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SERVE FOR THE RIGHT REASON

Dr. Vanessa Dantzler Ussery | September 19, 2018

What's your motive for serving in the Kingdom? Some people do it for show and others do it out of a sense of obligation. We must search our heart to be sure we serve for the right reason. Too often in the church community our service is based from the wrong motive. For some when no one shows enough appreciation the interest dissipates because the expected compliments were the motivation. There are some congregations where the leader places a guilt-trip on the person so the service is fear driven. None of these reasons or others that may come to mind is the right reason to serve.



In an article I recently read by Stan Smith it shared that our human motivation is hope for personal gain or fear of personal loss. When we serve in the Kingdom of God in hopes of any type of personal gain (recognition, applause, money, etc) this does not please the Lord. Furthermore, when we serve because we fear losing someone's approval (leader or other people) if we don't do what's asked, then God isn't pleased.

Our personal gains and losses should not be in the equation. When Jesus demonstrated serving God for the right reason, He removed his gains and losses off the table. Romans 12:1 speaks about being a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God which is our reasonable service. Our service in the Kingdom is to be done sacrificially. That means we are not concerned with anything other than pleasing God in what we do to the extent it has a positive Kingdom impact on others both in and out of the body of Christ. What we gain or lose in the process is immaterial. This allows us to be productive in serving as our fleshly nature is not the dominant factor thereby making us steadfast, consistent and faithful in whatever it is we are called to accomplish.

When our motivation is God-centered the potential for burn out is also removed. We are less likely to be offended or distracted and become highly capable of remaining focused since it's not about us. With this mindset we are motivated to serve for the right reason which is to glorify God and be a blessing to those we serve. Psalms 100:2 says, "Serve the Lord with gladness..." We often omit that serving the Lord is to be done with a joyful, willing heart without selfishness. If our motivation to serve is clothed with this truth our efforts lead to a successful Christ-like life!

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