

TALKING POINTS

FIND HOME HERE - SERVING

LEANING IN

We need to look at our spiritual lives as though we are sitting in one of four different chairs. The "self" chair, the "religious" chair, the "shame" chair and the "surrendered" chair. People in the surrendered chair serve others - they have an "others" mentality. Surrendered people serve people. This is what the church is all about. People who have surrendered to Jesus don't come to church, they ARE the church.

The church isn't a building you come and sit in, it's a movement you choose to be a part of.

Serving is not attractive in our culture - it makes us feel uncomfortable. What often holds us back is something called "the noetic effect" - which is the effect of our sin nature on our will where what God wants us to do, we *don't* want to do. A lot of the time people serve out of guilt. "*I guess I have to... or should.*" We serve, but we do it reluctantly. Each time we serve we do it with a hard heart or have to give ourselves a "pump up" speech to get out the door and on the way to church. It's the tension between people and preferences. It's a struggle for so many of us.

We tend to focus on what serving *IS* (i.e. stacking chairs, arriving early, wearing a T shirt that doesn't go with your pants, etc...), rather than what serving *DOES* to us and others! Serving can bring substantially more good into *our* lives than we realize.

Read 1 Peter 4:10-11, Matthew 23:11

Has your attitude toward serving been positive or negative - or both?

LIVING IT OUT

So many places in the Bible talks about the believers as the body of Christ. That we are to help one another to serve one another. But so often when people serve it's, "Where do you need me?" There may be needs, but when you serve:

You Are Not Just Filling a Need, You Are Joining A Community - technology has connected us more than ever, yet we're more *alone* than ever. When we serve, we become a *real* part of other's lives. We don't connect through texts, we connect through tears.

Read Ephesians 4:16, 1 Thessalonians 5:11, Hebrews 10:24-25

Why is service such a powerful doorway to community?

You are never more like Jesus than when you give and serve - Jesus' entire life was a model of service to others, and we're called to be like Him. Greatness in God's kingdom is to serve others.

Read Matthew 20:28, John 13:35, Matthew 25:40

How can you become a better model of service - what stands in your way?

If you want to see the miracle, be the first to serve - if you want to experience the miracles of God firsthand - "behind the scenes", if you will - then serve. You'll see God work in ways you never have before.

Read John 2:6-10, Hebrews 6:10-11, John 20:30-31

Have you ever done a service for someone and found you were blessed as much (or more) than they were?