

Serving and Calling

Gospel and Grace] GET THE GOSPEL
God's Story/ Your Story]

Reading the Word] GROW IN
Breathing in Jesus]

Worship and Upbuilding] GATHER AROUND
Serving and Calling]

Family Going] GO WITH

Grace Compels Us

1 Corinthians 15:10

By the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

Q – *What was the motivation for Paul's working?*

Q – *What did this motivation lead Paul to do?*

Being Proceeds Doing – Jeff Vanderstelt

We do what we do because of who we are. You do who you are. Being proceeds doing. God is and God does. And he **does** what he **is**. His activity reveals the truth about **who he is**. God is the Creator (who he is) who created (what he did) images of himself (who we are) to create and co-create (what we do).

It's crucial to know that **you are loved by God before you do anything**. His love in you produces "doing" through you. God does to you to go through you.

Ephesians 2:8-10

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

We were called by the work that Jesus did for us (the free gift of grace). Jesus calls us to good works that he prepared for us to walk into. Our calling and service is rooted in our salvation.

Q – *Is there any work you could ever do to be more loved and accepted by God?*

Q – *How then are we (as Christ followers) compelled to serve, love or care for others (works)?*

Philippians 2:3-8

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also the interest of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who though he was in the form of God did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men ... He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

John 13:12-16

When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you."

Q – *What was the posture of Jesus' service toward us?*

Q – *What posture are we called to have toward others as we serve?*

We serve others because Christ first served us. Christ calls and compels us to follow in his example of serving others and looking to their interests before our own. We are not **defined by** our service, but we are **compelled to** his service. "**Being**" (you are accepted because of what Christ did on your behalf) proceeds "**doing**" (works that we do).

Q – *Where is God calling you to serve him and his Kingdom (in small or large ways)?*

Q – *Why is it easy to confuse "being" "doing?"*

Serving and Calling

Experiential Knowledge – Andrew Davis

Factual knowledge is gained from Scripture, experiential knowledge is gained from living under the Spirit of God's world. Experiential knowledge is gained by a daily lifestyle in God's world, as God providentially directs our paths. Each encounter, when interpreted by the Holy Spirit prepares us for future service to him.

Matthew 4:19

Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.

Q – *How does God train us as we follow him in “his world?”*

Q – *How have you experienced this in your life?*

Q – *Could you grow more in factual knowledge or experiential knowledge?*

Finding Your Calling

Jesus loves the church and serves the church more than anyone else. Jesus calls us into his love and service by empowering us to care for *his* church. There are many ways God empowers individuals to love and serve the church. Each church has a unique context and a unique make up of both gifts and needs.

1 Corinthians 12:4

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

Stone Church has many opportunities available for using your gifts in order to find your calling.

There are four Sunday Serve Teams, Family Nights, and countless ways we love our city.

Serve Teams – Welcome Team, Media Team, Set Up Team and Stone Kids.

Family Nights – A weekly group gathering to enjoy dinner and a discussion around the sermon.

Loving our City – There are opportunities to serve Young Life, city projects (i.e. Auburn Clean Sweep) orphan trips and countless other (more organic) ways to serve, love and reach the lost in Auburn.

Finding Your Niche – Bill Hybels

What's the key to finding your niche? Just jump in and start experimenting.

Loving the Body

God's church is first and foremost about people. Jesus loved, served and pursued people. Before you do anything for people, you must first love people, just as Jesus loved you.

John 13:34

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

Q – *How will the world know that we are Jesus' disciples?*

Q – *Are you more of an introvert or extrovert, and how has God used his family to grow you?*

Terry Virgo – Righteous in Christ

God has justified you freely! He has given you thorough acceptance in his sight, not because of your changed life but because of his good pleasure in giving you the very righteousness of Christ.

“Be” Before “Do”

Before you do anything, remember that you are perfectly **righteous, loved** and **accepted** in Christ.

Q – *Where has God called you to serve him and his family?*

Q – *What are God dreams you aspire to walk into someday?*

Pray – That Jesus would lead us to good works; serving and loving people like he would.