

If I Love, I SERVE

“...service is both vertical and horizontal: toward God, honoring Him in everything, and toward our neighbor. If we serve God, we will inevitably serve people; and if we serve people, we demonstrate that we serve God.

Dr. Rigoberto Galvez - “Understanding Theology”

If I Love, I Serve. Therefore:

1. I cannot remain indifferent to the needs around me

³ And they said to me, “The remnant there in the province who had survived the exile is in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates are destroyed by fire.”

NEHEMIAH 1:3-4 ESV

There are three inner motivations that make us aware of the need to serve:

Serving out of obligation.

Serving in response to an invitation.

Serving because we perceive the needs of others.

– Christopher Shaw, *Lift Your Eyes*

If I Love, I Serve. Therefore:

2. I look for opportunities to serve

⁴ Then the king said to me, “What are you requesting?” So I prayed to the God of heaven. ⁵ And I said to the king, “If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' graves, that I may rebuild it.” ⁶ And the king said to me (the queen sitting beside him), “How long will you be gone, and when will you return?” So it pleased the king to send me when I had given him a time.

NEHEMIAH 2:4-6 ESV

“Faith without action is dead faith, but action without prayer is dead activism.”

Timothy Keller

“To pray is to accept that we are, and always will be, completely dependent on God for everything.”

Timothy Keller

If I Love, I Serve. Therefore:

3. I am not intimidated by opposition

¹⁴ And I looked and arose and said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, “Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes.” ¹⁵ When our enemies heard that it was known to us and that God had frustrated their plan, we all returned to the wall, each to his work.

NEHEMIAH 4:14-15 ESV

“Fight, and you may die. Run, and you will live, at least for a while. But when you lie in your beds many years from now, as you face the end of your days, would you be willing to trade all those years for one chance, just one chance, to come back here and tell our enemies that they may take our lives, but they will never take our freedom?”

William Wallace, *Braveheart*

²⁷ Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; ²⁸ And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God.

PHILIPPIANS 1:27-28 KJV

If I Love, I Serve. Therefore:

4. I contribute my resources to promote worship

⁴⁴ On that day men were appointed over the storerooms, the contributions, the firstfruits, and the tithes, to gather into them the portions required by the Law for the priests and for the Levites according to the fields of the towns, for Judah rejoiced over the priests and the Levites who ministered. ⁴⁵ And they performed the service of their God and the service of purification, as did the singers and the gatekeepers, according to the command of David and his son Solomon. ⁴⁶ For long ago in the days of David and Asaph there were directors of the singers, and there were songs of praise and thanksgiving to God.

⁴⁷ And all Israel in the days of Zerubbabel and in the days of Nehemiah gave the daily portions for the singers and the gatekeepers; and they set apart that which was for the Levites; and the Levites set apart that which was for the sons of Aaron.

NEHEMIAH 12:44-47 ESV

¹⁰ I also found out that the portions of the Levites had not been given to them, so that the Levites and the singers, who did the work, had fled each to his field. ¹¹ So I confronted the officials and said, “Why is the house of God forsaken?” And I gathered them together and set them in their stations. ¹² Then all Judah brought the tithe of the grain, wine, and oil into the storehouses. ¹³ And I appointed as treasurers over the storehouses Shelemiah the priest, Zadok the scribe, and Pedaiah of the Levites, and as their assistant Hanan the son of Zaccur, son of Mattaniah, for they were considered reliable, and their duty was to distribute to their brothers. ¹⁴ Remember me, O my God, concerning this, and do not wipe out my good deeds that I have done for the house of my God and for his service.

NEHEMIAH 13:10-14 ESV