

40 Days of Community # 5 CALLED TO SERVE

I Corinthians 3:5-15

Today in our series of BETTER TOGETHER
WE ARE LOOKING AT CALLED TO SERVE.
God did not put you on earth to live a self-centered life.
And he has given us each talents, abilities, background,
experience, time, energy and money to help somebody else
To Say "I mind my own business!" is not a Christian statement.
Because others are our businesses.
And when you do it God's name; the Bible calls that 'ministry.'
What we discover is that we work BETTER TOGETHER
As a TEAM in service.

Have you ever gone to one of those Boat shows they had at the arena?

You can see all those fancy pontoons and fishing boats, campers and 4-wheelers.
A man went there and saw a boat he wanted more than anything else.
But his wife kept refusing, He said: "Come on we're a team."
Finally he just bought it anyway. Then he said to her. "I'll tell you what,
In the spirit of partnership, why don't you name the boat?"
Being a good sport, she accepted. When her husband went to the dock for his maiden
voyage with his new boat, Its name was painted in beautiful letter on the side: "For Sale."

We are BETTER TOGETHER and we are CALLED TO SERVE
BECAUSE :

I. THE CHURCH IS A FAMILY

We work together as partners who belong to God. I Corinthians 3:9aNL

God is more interested in the relationships you develop
than in what you do, or what you say.
Were better together as family.

U.S. News and World Report studied successful millionaire families, and they discovered that the man worked eight to ten hours a day for thirty years and is still married to his high school or college sweetheart.
A New York executive search firm, studied 1365 corporate vice presidents, discovered that 87% were still married to their one and only spouse and that 92% were raised in two-parent families.
The evidence is overwhelming that the family is the strength and foundation of society.
Strengthen your family ties and you'll enhance your opportunity to succeed.
As well as to serve.

The church is our family.

We serve God when we serve our family.

Philippians chapter 2. "Agree with each other, loving one another, and working together with one heart and purpose."

There is always someone who says:

Well, why do I have to serve with anybody else?
 Why can't I just serve God on my own?
 But God says we work together because we're all needed.
 Some of you are the hand, a foot, eye, the ear and the nose;
 lots of us want to be the mouth.

Each of us finds our meaning and function as a part of Christ's body I Corinthians 12:13NLT

Albert Schweitzer said: "I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know, the only ones among you who will be truly happy are those who have sought and found how to serve."

Teamwork multiplies effort.

Ecclesiastes 4:9 "Two are better off than one because together they can work more effectively."

God really doesn't care about how much talent you have,
 But if you are willing to use that talent.
 And to serve and work with others?

What does it take to make a TEAM
 First of all the T in TEAM stand for:

1. TRUST.

You can't serve together unless you have TRUST.

Paul writes to I Timothy 6:20 *"Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care."*
Proverbs 20:6 "Many people claim to be loyal, but it's hard to find a trustworthy person."

That was written thousands of years ago,
 and it's still human dilemma today.
 It's tough to find people that you can trust.

We don't like People who are always jumping around, unpredictable
 we want people who are consistent, who are dependable,

Take 18 year old Freddie who wasn't especially bright, but had just started his first job, as a delivery boy at a furniture warehouse. Was asked was to go out for coffee. He walked into a nearby coffee shop carrying a large thermos. When the waiter came, he held up the thermos. "Is this big enough to hold six cups of coffee?" the Waiter said: "Yeah, it looks like about six cups to me." "Good," Freddie said. "Give me two regular, two black, and two decaf."

Luke 16 verse 10, "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much."

God says, "I don't care about the size of the job, or ministry
 I care about the heart behind it.

**"If you are faithful in little responsibilities," God says,
 "I will give you greater ones and greater ones and greater ones and greater ones."**

When Cliff Barrows was 21 years old.” He went to hear a 23 year old young preacher named Billy Graham who was coming to Modesto, California. Cliff and his girlfriend heard that the person who was supposed to lead the music, the song leader, didn’t show up. And somebody volunteered Cliff Barrows. He said “Well why not?” So that night as a substitute, he got up and led the music. And after it was over, Billy Graham put his arm around him and said, “You know, why don’t you travel with me?” And Cliff said: “I have now been at his side for 60 years.”

Because Cliff Barrows was faithful in little God has allowed him to sing and lead
More than 50 –60 million people in song, more people than any other human in history.
Faithful in little, faithful in much.

T in TEAM is **TRUST**:

The E in Team is

II. EMPATHY.

Empathy means --to understand one another.

You feel understood and validated.

First Peter 3:8 “Live in harmony with one another. Be sympathetic.”

Sympathy creates harmony.

To show empathy we must SLOW DOWN

I live on Ashwood Drive.

When I get in my car and drive the circle of Ashwood drive.

I miss a lot of things.

But when I walk it. I see the details

I visit with the neighbors I laugh with the kids.

The faster I move, the more details I miss.

Most of us are Jet skiing through life.

James 1:19“Be quick to listen and slow to speak and slow to become angry.”

This morning your listening at about 650 words a minute.

I’m only speaking about 190 words a minute.

That leaves about a 465-words-per-minute boredom factor.

And some of you men are bumping your wives and saying.

see that’s why I can sleep and still listen.

That’s why I can watch TV and listen to you and the kids.”

BUT I find when I move from the pulpit after the sermon to shake hands

I have to slow down.

Because MY RPM is revved up high,

I must deliberately slow down and listen.

To be empathetic you must be a slow listener.

Proverbs 20 verse 5 says this, “A person’s thoughts are like water in a deep well, but someone with insight can draw them out.”

I remember a farmer who lived across the river from us.

He had an artesian well.

It flowed 24 hours a day.

All the rest of us had windmills and pumps
 We had to pump our water. That took time.
 Asking a question twice is like pumping water.
 It pumps the emotions right out of us.

How are you doing?" "I'm fine."

"No really, how are you doing?"

"Well, things are busy."

Its the second question that shows we really care.

Romans 12:5, ***"Rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep."***

Do people know you care by the way you listen, and laugh and cry with them?

It was in a restaurant at noon in California that

A waitress was carrying a 2-gallon container of Thousand Island dressing. She paused for just a second coming through the swinging doors & the doors had caught her backside and knocked her forward, launching 2 gallons of dressing on a patron who went ballistic. Shouting and cursing, Calling her stupid, Saying she had ruined his new \$300 dollar suit. And he shouted "I want to see the manager!"

The manager came out and asked, "Is there a problem?"

The man said: "I want a new suit she ruined my \$300 suit."

The manager says, "We'll be glad to get your suit cleaned.

Accidents happen, & we're really sorry about this."

"No! No!"he shouted. "I don't want my suit cleaned. I want a brand new suit, & I demand a check for \$300 right here & now.

Well, to avoid a bigger scene, the manger wrote out a check for \$300 & took it to him.

Justice was served.

The sad thing is that this happened at noon on a Sunday.

And where do you think the person was coming from who was wearing a new suit

That's right -- church?

Ephesians 4:2 "Be patient with each other. Making allowance for each other's faults because of your love."

If someone fender bends you in the church parking lot?

It is more than saying, "I'm sorry you hurt."

Empathy is saying I hurt with you.

The E in Team is **EMPATHY**

The A in TEAM is

III. ACCOMODATION.

Ever notice that God likes variety?

We're all different so we have to accommodate each others' differences.

I Corinthians 12:19 God has made many parts for our bodies and has put each part just where he wants it. LB

When you accommodate somebody, .

You give them space.

You make room for them.

We still have about 200 of you who were here when I came to First Church as Pastor 20 years ago. The rest of you have come and joined us since.

Imagine all the change those old members have gone through.
 When we went to a third service during the Sunday School hour.
 Many people thought this would kill our Sunday school.
 Then we had to go to four services.
 That meant our parking had become even more critical.
 And so we changed the times of the services..
 The 8:30 people had to come 15 minutes earlier.
 Get the kids up 15 minutes earlier.
 I've had some 8:30 people say:
 "If you change the time were not coming back."
 But they did. It was called Accommodation, Unselfishness.

Proverbs 18:15, "The intelligent man is always open to new ideas. In fact, he looks for them."

When that fourth contemporary service started at the MOC
 About 100 people left the 11:00 service.
 Those who remained had to have shock therapy.
 The sanctuary looked so empty.
 But today it's coming back and filling up.
 And the MOC is growing with new people.
 There's only one word for it:
 Unselfish Accommodation.
 If we stop making accommodation we stop growing.

That's why this fall were thinking about adding on
 A 5th worship service on Saturday night.
 You think that's easy? No.

Its takes more greeters, ushers, flowers, servers, musicians and work for us pastors.
 And we will have a to ask people to skip going out to breakfast
 So we can have enough teachers in Sunday school.
II Timothy 2:22, "Be faithful, loving and, easy to get along with."

Now there's a verse for your refrigerator this week.
 The question is not Are you easy to get along with?
 The question is: Would the people closest to you say you're easy to get along with?

The A in Team is ACCOMODATION

The M in Team is **IV. MISSION.**

A team to serve completely needs a mission.
 We need a common mission and purpose,
 a cause we can accomplish together.

Philippians 2:2, "Be of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose."

We ask all our small groups to choose a mission.

Where we can serve together?

The Bible says, *“Live in a way that brings honor to the good news of Christ. Standing strong, with one purpose, working together, as one for the faith of the Good News.”*

Philippians 2:3-4

Its easier to take risk when we do it together.

Its more fun and were better.

God said of the teamwork of the tower of Babel.

“Look what we’re doing.”

Only problem was they worship the tower and Not God.

God said, *“If as one people, speaking the same language, they have begun to do this. Then nothing they plan will be impossible for them.”*

God was saying that though teamwork anything is possible.

And add to that today the power of the HOLY SPIRIT

COME DOWN TO US AGAIN AND AGAIN.

We can change the world.

When we have a committed team,

And a compelling purpose,

And clear communication,

Watch with me now as we see how two members of our church were inspired by the Holy Spirit to BEGAN and then TO CARRY OUT two ministries of service.

VIDEO-----Sheri Gross and Cindy Beard: Meal and Errands ministry

Is God speaking to you to do a ministry of Service.

Step up and you too can find that you are a faithful follower

Of Jesus Christ who serves him willingly and well.

PRAYER;

Dear God I believe with all my heart that if we continue to work together,

Serving others people will began to find trust, empathy, be accommodated, and have a common mission that with God’s help nothing will be impossible.

Help me lord to be open for you to use my life as you see fit.

I pray in Jesus name. Amen.