

<b>Series</b>	All Hands On Deck (Part 2)
<b>Bible</b>	Philippians 2:12-30
<b>Title/Topic</b>	Submit and Serve (Serving Hands)
<b>Overview</b>	If we want to reach the world for Christ, we must be willing to roll up our sleeves and serve others. Sometimes, this will entail doing things that stretch us. But we must also keep a close rein on the attitude with which we serve. To serve in a way that honors Christ and uplifts others, we must do so out of submission to Christ.
<b>Scripture Breakdown</b>	<p><b>Main Point: As Christians, we must serve others out of submission to Christ.</b></p> <p>HOW WE SERVE OUT OF SUBMISSION TO CHRIST:</p> <p><b>1. We submit to Christ’s example (v.12a).</b></p> <p>The word “therefore” which starts this passage automatically points us back to what was said before. Immediately before this, Paul had just mentioned the example set by Christ, who had the mindset of putting others before himself. We are to submit to and follow his example by emptying ourselves and taking on the form of a servant like he did.</p> <p>What we should take from this is that Christ is not asking us to do something that he himself was not willing to do. He asks us to follow his lead. Only when we do this will we be able to serve others out of submission to him.</p> <p>An example of this is found in John 13, where we see Jesus washing his disciples’ feet. We can easily ask ourselves a very introspective question: Would we be willing to do the same? If our answer is no or we have to think about it, this is evidence that God has much more work to do on us.</p> <p><b>2. We serve regardless of whether someone we look up to or report to is watching (v.12b).</b></p> <p>Paul tells the Philippians that they should be willing to serve like Christ did whether he is present with them or not (“not only as in my presence, but much more in my absence”). They are to “work out their salvation with fear and trembling” whether Paul (or anyone else) is looking over their shoulders or not.</p> <p>It’s much more motivating to be on our “best behavior” when someone we look up to or report to is watching us. But the real test of our obedience (and integrity) comes when no one is watching us. In church</p>

	<p>life, we don't want to just serve like Christ did because our pastor or leaders is/are watching or asking. We should do it because we want to honor Christ. When we do this, we will serve with the right attitude.</p> <p><b>3. We allow God to work in and through us (v.13).</b></p> <p>If we don't allow God to work in us, we won't allow him to work through us. We must always seek God's further sanctifying work in our lives so that we can further embrace the attitude and mindset of Christ. We seek God's work in our lives by regularly spending time in his Word and prayer, as well as with other things like fellowshiping with other believers.</p> <p>What this also should remind us of is the fact that it is God who does the work through us—meaning we should see ourselves as tools in his hands. We're not the ones who do the work; God does the work through us.</p> <p><b>4. We do all things with a God-honoring attitude (v.14-16).</b></p> <p>We're told to do all things without grumbling or complaining as we seek to be blameless and innocent children of God who are holding fast to His Word. Grumbling and complaining are not conducive to a humble attitude that is submissive to Christ and his example.</p> <p>"All things" may entail that we are called by God to do things that we would rather not do. As servants of Christ, we may be called to go the extra mile for the people around us. When this happens, we must guard ourselves against grumbling and complaining.</p> <p><i>[After all of this, we're given two examples of real men who displayed this kind of submissive, servant-hearted character—Timothy (v.19-24) and Epaphroditus (v.25-30). The text is very descriptive of the kinds of sacrifices they made as they sought to advance the Gospel in obedience to Christ.]</i></p>
<b>Gospel</b>	<p>If we want to do a good job of serving others with the right attitude, we must first be submitted to Jesus as our Lord and Savior. Thankfully, he invites us to give our lives to him and have him forgive our sins apart from any work we could do on our own.</p>
<b>Next Steps</b>	<p>Are you a submissive servant of Christ? Are there things you hope he never asks you to do because you believe it is too beneath you? A submissive servant of Christ is willing to do whatever he tells them to do and to serve even "the least of these" (see Matthew 25:40-45).</p>

If you have any questions or need assistance, you can email me at [jasonp@newlifechicago.org](mailto:jasonp@newlifechicago.org).