

A COMMUNITY OF SERVANTS



Christians are the hands, feet, voice and heart of Jesus in this world.

Therefore, we must act as He did: “just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve.” (Matthew 20:28)

Every Christian church is a community of servants. We’re called to serve one another and to serve the community.



- ➔ Servants and the community.
- ➔ Servants who intercede.
- ➔ Servants who preach.
- ➔ Servants within the church.
- ➔ Servants who cooperate.

SERVANTS AND THE COMMUNITY

"Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place." (2 Corinthians 2:14)



The first believers took care of those in need both within the church and in the community. Paul used several metaphors that involve the church as a community of servants.

A living sacrifice (Ro. 12:1)



- We surrender to God so He can fulfill His will in us. This involves serving others.

The body of Christ (1Co. 12:12-20)



- Christ is the head and we're part of the body. We serve the world as He did according to our own ability.

Ambassadors (2Co. 5:18-20)



- God has called us to announce reconciliation, both between us and between God and us.

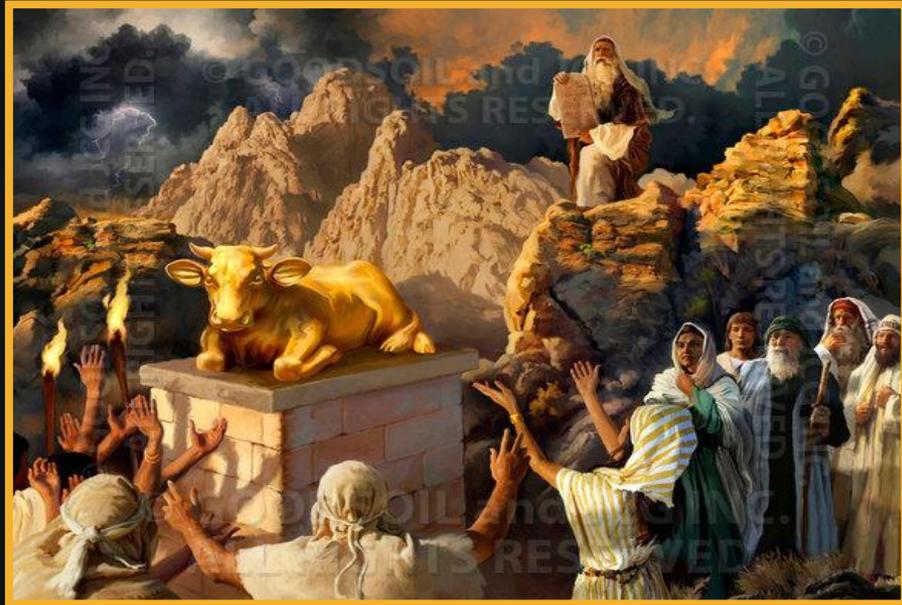
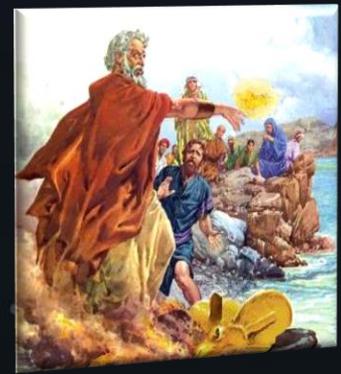
Fragrance (2Co. 2:14-16)



- Our presence in the community is "smell" of Christ. Smell of life for those who accept Him, and smell of death for those who reject Him.

SERVANTS WHO INTERCEDE

"Now it came to pass on the next day that Moses said to the people, 'You have committed a great sin. So now I will go up to the Lord; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin.'" (Exodus 32:30)



The people of Israel stirred the wrath of God by worshipping the golden calf. God suggested destroying them and giving His promises to Moses and his descendants.

Moses loved the people of Israel and argued with God, rejecting His suggestion. Moses was willing to lose his own salvation to save the people (Exodus 32:32).

Moses loved sinners so much that he interceded for them before God.





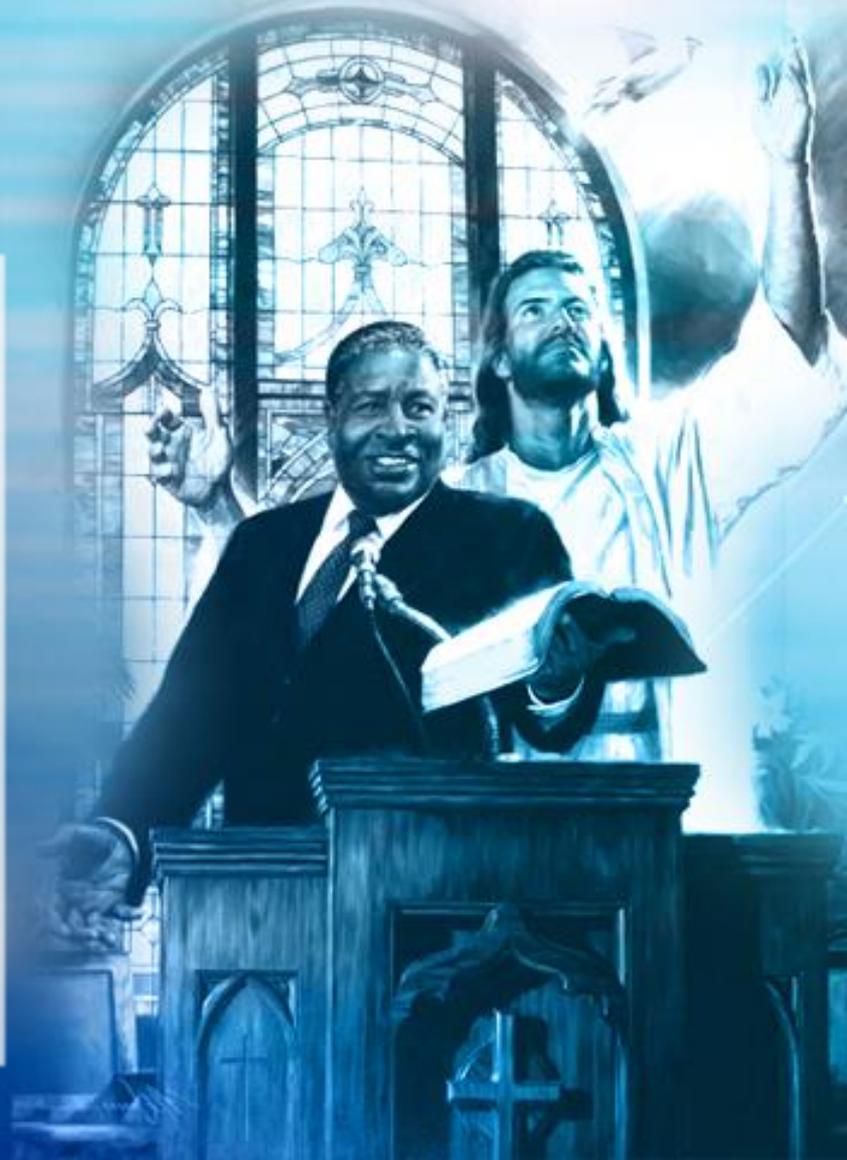
“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)

SERVANTS WHO PREACH

Jesus asks us to preach the gospel: “And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’”; in addition: “Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.” (Matthew 10:7-8)

Taking care of those is very bound to preaching the gospel. They go together.

Both actions come as a response to God’s love. His love moves us to love others and work for their spiritual and physical well-being (1 John 3:17).



SERVANTS WITHIN THE CHURCH

“By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:35)



The values of justice, grace, and love should govern all that happens within the church. Otherwise, how could we be an example in our community? Could our example shadow our faith?

The church as an organization must be fair and generous with its employees. It must protect the most vulnerable members and help those in need.

Each church member must take care of the other members and help them to the best of their ability (Galatians 6:10; Hebrews 13:16).



SERVANTS WHO COOPERATE

*"so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."
(Romans 12:5 NIV)*

A group of people working together can do more than working individually.

We must work together as a united body. Each person has a different role according to the gifts the Holy Spirit has given them.



Cooperation is essential to take care of those in need.

Our work may not give fruit immediately, and it may be tiring. The apostle Paul gave us this piece of advice: "And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart." (Galatians 6:9)

“We are living in a special period of this earth's history. A great work must be done in a very short time, and every Christian is to act a part in sustaining this work. God is calling for men who will consecrate themselves to the work of soulsaving. When we begin to comprehend what a sacrifice Christ made in order to save a perishing world, there will be seen a mighty wrestling to save souls. Oh, that all our churches might see and realize the infinite sacrifice of Christ!”

E.G.W. (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 9, cp. 13, p. 125)