

## Serving God

The natural response of sinners who have been forgiven their sins and declared righteous by a holy God ought to be service. Serving God is a form of worship to God. Serving God expresses our gratitude for his grace in our lives.

What is so amazing is that the believer, who has experienced this forgiveness and imputed righteousness by God, has also been gifted by God in order to serve. The God who is worthy of service has equipped us to do so! The New Testament declares over and over that believers have been given spiritual gifts (Eph. 4:7-16, 1 Cor. 12:4-11, Rom. 12:3-8, 1 Peter 4:10) for the benefit of the body of Christ and the glory of God. We have been saved to serve!

And not only have we been empowered to serve, we have seen service modeled for us. Jesus, God incarnate, came into the world to serve. He declared his purpose in serving when he said, "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve" (Mark 10:45a). Later, in a time of great personal agony when he anticipated his betrayal by one disciple and a denial by another, he donned a towel and basin and washed his disciple's feet (John 13). He taught them how to serve by example.

Finally, in the ultimate expression of humility, the eternal son of God who took on human form, served man by sacrificially giving up his life. God died for us. Jesus suffered for our sins. If the Son of God did this for us, our response to him is a simple one: serve him with our entire life. How will you and I serve Christ and his body the church more fervently in the days ahead?

*Soli Deo glori.*