



**Series Title—Spiritual Growth**

*Part Seven—Serve*

**Matthew 25:34-41    Philippians 2:3-4**

*Pastor Dan Turpin    WestCoastChurch.com*

*Objective Sentence: Everyone can grow spiritually by making nine commitments to the Lord Jesus Christ: (1) Where it all Begins (2) Give Your Full Attention (3) Make a Calendar Clock Commitment (4) Love the Church (5) Be Baptized in the Holy Spirit (6) Be A Witness for Christ (6) Witness you're your Words (6) Witness with Your Life (7) Be A Servant (8) Give (9) Be Sanctified.*

**Introduction:** Entitlement is the belief that one is inherently deserving of privileges or special treatment, for whatever the reason he or she believes they deserve privilege. Some feel entitled because they have so little. I didn't realize it early in life but the reason I did what I did and took what I wanted to take is because I felt that I deserved to have what others more fortunate than me had. Some feel entitled because they have so much and do what they want to do and take what they want to take because they feel they deserve more because they have more. But the only real entitlement we deserve in life is life—and discovering the purpose for which we have been given the life we have and then dedicating ourselves with all our heart to fulfilling that purpose we have discovered.

In **Mark 12:30** Jesus declared, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength and love your neighbor as yourself. The hope for happiness in this life and the life to come is gained only by serving—so serve.

**#1.    *Serve***

**A.    *Dr. Albert Schweitzer: The only ones among us who will be really happy are those who will have sought and found out how to serve.***

**1.    **Be A Servant**    *(1 Corinthians 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?***

<sup>20</sup> *For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.)*

- a. *Corrie Ten Boom:* Life is a lot like tennis—the one who can serve best seldom loses. *Oswald Chambers:* My life of service to God is the way I say “thank you” to Him for His inexpressibly wonderful gift of salvation.
- b. **Mark 10:45 NLT** The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. **Matthew 20:25-28 NLT** ... the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. <sup>26</sup> But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever wants to be first among you must become your slave. <sup>28</sup> For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many. **Philippians 2:5 NKJV** Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, <sup>7</sup> but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient *to the point of death*.
- c. *Pastor Dan:* Our biggest challenge in life is not in learning how to live [for Jesus] but in learning how to die [to self].
- d. *Pastor Wayne Friedt:* It is easy to be a Christian but it is hard to die.
- e. **Matthew 23:11 NLT** The greatest among you must be a servant. <sup>12</sup> But those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.
- f. **1 Peter 4:10** Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace.
- g. *Albert Einstien:* Only a life lived for others is worth living

2. **Serve God's Interests in Others** (**Matthew 25:31-40** *Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: <sup>35</sup> for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; <sup>36</sup> I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'* <sup>37</sup> *“Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? <sup>38</sup> When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? <sup>39</sup> Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’* <sup>40</sup> *And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me).*

- a. *Helen Keller:* There is joy in self forgetfulness so I try to make the light in others eyes my sun, the music in others ears my symphony and the smile on others lips my joy.
- b. *E. Stanley Jones:* Life is not built for negative achievement—it is made for positive contribution, for outgoing love. The one who loves not, lives not; and the one who loves most, lives most.
- c. *Dwight L. Moody:* I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And that which I can do, by the grace of God, I will do.

- d. *Charles Dickens:* No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another.
- e. **Ezekiel 22:30** So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.<sup>31</sup> Therefore I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; and I have recompensed their deeds on their own heads
- f. *Pastor Dan:* Your calling is to take away the hurt of others. A little care, a little love, a little kindness and a little taking an interest in people is as powerful as a great sermon; it is a move of God that will never fade, it is one thing that will make an eternal difference in the lives of others.
- g. **Philippians 2:3-4** Do nothing out of selfish ambition and vain conceit but in humility consider others as better than yourself. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interest of others.
- h. *E. Stanley Jones:* You can never get rid of your own troubles unless you take upon yourself the troubles of others... As someone has put it, "When I dig a person out of trouble, the hole which is left behind is the grave where I bury my own [sorrow]."

*Closing thought and Invitation: Pastor Dan:* God has blessed you to bless others with that which you have been given, and according to Jesus we are accountable for how we invest the blessings with which we have been blessed. The well fed will be judged by how well they fed the needy with the ability with which they had to feed them; those living a thirst quenched life will be judged by how well they quenched the thirst of the thirsty with the ability they had to quench their thirst; those whom God has blessed with friends will be judged by how well they befriended the friendless with the ability they had to befriend them; the well dressed will be judged by how well they dressed the naked with the ability they had cloth them; the healthy will be judged for how well they cared for the sick in their affliction with the ability with which they had to care for them. Those who are free will be judged by what they did to free the prisoner with the ability with which they had to help them. Jesus said, "Assuredly I say to you, Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me."