

BEN WASHINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study Series – Part 3

“I am a Church Member”

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I AM A CHURCH MEMBER



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I WILL BE A SELFLESS CHURCH MEMBER

Biblical Principle

God expects His followers to imitate the selfless servant nature of Jesus Christ.

Biblical Passage(s) in Focus

Matthew 9:35; Ephesians 3:7; Philippians 2:5-11

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Matthew 9:35

And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

Ephesians 3:7

Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.

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Philippians 2:5-11

5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. 9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of [things] in heaven, and [things] in earth, and [things] under the earth; 11 And [that] every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ [is] Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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Life Impact and Lesson Goals

This lesson is designed to help us understand that church membership is not about us by

- Examining the biblical concept of servanthood
 - Examining the biblical servant motif
- Examining the marks of an inward focus church
 - Emulating the servant model of Christ.

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Lesson Outline

The Measure of a Selfless Member (Matthew 9:35)

The Motivation of a Selfless Member (Ephesians 3:7)

The Marks of a Self-Serving Membership

The Model for Selfless Members (Philippians 2:5-11)

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Paul addresses one of the greatest enemies of unity in the church: self-centeredness.

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Children can be Selfish and Demanding

Adults can be Selfish and Demanding

Church members can behave the same way

Church is not about us!

God expects His followers to imitate the selfless servant nature of Jesus Christ.

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Paul says:

“Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory.”

Our ministry cannot simply be about:

getting our way,
receiving recognition,
holding a position,
protecting our territory,
or proving that our idea is best.

Sometimes conflict in churches is not really theological...It is preferential.

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Paul says:

“Esteem other better than themselves.”

This does not mean believing everyone else is more talented or important than you. It means intentionally considering their interests and needs.

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Selflessness starts in the mind.

Philippians 2:5 says:

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.”

Selfless membership begins with a change in our **mindset**.

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Lesson Historical Setting

In this third lesson, we will examine several passages of Scriptures that will highlight several biblical principles of a selfless servant culminating with the ultimate example of a selfless servant, Jesus Christ. Let's explore...

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The Measure of a Selfless Member (Matthew 9:35)

- Servants are Selfless
- Servants aren't Selective

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The Motivation of a Selfless Member (Ephesians 3:7)

- Servanthood is Motivated by the Gift of God
- Servanthood is Motivated by the Grace of God

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The Marks of a Self-Serving Membership

Worship Wars

Prolonged Meetings

Facility Focused

Inwardly Focused Budget

Program Driven

Unreasonable Pastoral Demands

Attitude of Entitlement

Change Oriented vs. Gospel Oriented

Anger and Hostility

Evangelistic Apathy

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The Model for Selfless Members (Philippians 2:5-11)

Christ was Selfless

Christ was a Servant

Christ was Submissive

Christ was Sacrificial

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Selfless Members Follow the Example of Jesus.

The greatest model of selflessness is not another church member.

It is Jesus Christ.

Mark 10:45 “For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

Jesus makes an extraordinary statement.

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Four Marks of a Selfless Church Member

A selfless church member:

1. Chooses purpose over preference.

1 Corinthians 10:24

They care more about advancing the mission than getting their way.

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Four Marks of a Selfless Church Member

A selfless church member:

2. Chooses service over status.

Mark 10:45

They don't need a title before they are willing to help.

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Four Marks of a Selfless Church Member

A selfless church member:

3. Chooses others over self.

Philippians 2:3–4

They intentionally consider the spiritual and practical needs of others.

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Four Marks of a Selfless Church Member

A selfless church member:

4. Chooses Christ's example over culture's example.

Philippians 2:5–8

Jesus becomes the standard for how they serve.

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Questions?