

The desire to be useful

Romans 12:3-13 and Matthew 6:1-4

Romans 12:3-13

³ For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. ⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

Matthew 6:1-4

¹ "Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. ² "So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honoured by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ³ But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."

Bible passages taken from NIV 2011

Agree or disagree?

What do we mean?

Why do we desire to be useful?

What does the Bible say about it for us Christians?

What does it mean for our relationship with others in the church?

A Bible Study

Pray:

Heavenly Father, help us to be considerate of each other and aware of others needs as well as our own. Help us to feel safe and confident to be self-aware. Give us faith to receive your word, understanding to know what it means and the willingness to put it into practice. May knowing you, and being known by you, be of great comfort and reassurance to us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Each of you share.

- "People have a desire to be useful. To contribute. To help out. To be kept occupied." Do you agree or disagree? Why?
- What have you observed about people that don't feel useful or not allowed to be useful?
- Likewise, what have you observed about people that feel useful and allowed to be useful?

Be self-aware.

- Do you have a desire to be useful? To contribute? To help out? To be kept occupied? Can you give an example?

Read: Romans 12:3-13 and Matthew 6:1-4

Ask and answer:

- What do these two Bible passages teach you about being useful in the life of the church?

A Scenario: Should everyone "be useful" in the church?

- Mr Pewbody doesn't feel useful in the church. How would you go about helping him? If you believe everyone should be useful in the church, what would you say to them? What would you do to help them know they are useful?

Close with a prayer.