

The Heart of Serving

John Singleton: 15 Sept 2019

John started with an anecdote. He grew up with an understanding of very distinct male/female roles but this changed when he got married!

One day, when he was hoovering the stairs, he asked himself, 'Why am I doing this?' At that moment, God gave him a revelation: it wasn't the task that was important but the person he was doing it for and his motivation for doing it.

Revelation is different from knowledge; it goes deeper. God shows us something and we can then live in the good of it. So serving is not about 'doing a job', but about expressing our heart, it's an act of worship. [Colossians 3:17](#) says, 'Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord...'

[Galatians 5:13](#) says, 'Through love, serve one another.' [John 13](#), the story of Jesus washing his disciples' feet, gives us a powerful picture of this kind of serving. It wasn't a pleasant job and should have been carried out by a servant, however Jesus wanted to demonstrate to those closest to him how much he loved them, and so he served them where the need was. Jesus came from God, and so do we - we have that same basis of security which enables us to do the job, no matter how unpalatable.

Don't get preoccupied with the task, it's the heart that counts and the task is merely an opportunity to express our heart. Serving takes the focus off ourselves and onto others. It's a better cure for insecurity than therapy!

The enemy might say, 'You can't', 'You're not good enough', 'If you start you'll be stuck doing something you don't want to do' etc. But we don't know where our serving will lead.

For example, John's early serving led to establishing ground-breaking children's work. God wants us to start where we are and he'll take us to where he wants us. We're part of the body of Christ and, just like a human body, every part

needs to function well. God is more concerned with how we are and serving is part of the route through to becoming what he wants.

After Jesus had washed the disciples' feet, he told them that he wanted them to serve one another in love. This was a revelation to them and we can expect to have that same revelation.

In [2 Corinthians 13:4](#) Paul says, 'By God's power, we will live with him to serve you.' This tells us that living with God has a purpose. We can be equipped by his power to serve one another. We serve, as unto the Lord, through love and, in the light of this revelation, the eight reservations referred to at the beginning all melt away.

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