

Discussion Questions

September 28, 2025



Belong: Serve One Another

The heart of this week's message is that because we belong to Christ and His family, we are called to serve. We aren't saved by our good works, but we are saved for good works. This isn't about earning God's favor, but about responding to His grace by moving from a "consumer" mindset to a "co-heir" mentality, eagerly looking for ways to demonstrate God's love by meeting the practical needs of one another.

1. Read Ephesians 2:8-10 (NIV)

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

- Many Christians love and memorize verses 8-9. Why do you think verse 10 is sometimes overlooked? What is the danger of separating verse 10 from verses 8 and 9?

- How does the idea that God "prepared in advance" good works for you change your perspective on your week? How does it make you see your opportunities at home, at work, or in your neighborhood differently?

2. Read Titus 2:11-14 & 3:14 (CSB)

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people... He gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for himself a people for his own possession, eager to do good works. Let our people learn to devote themselves to good works for pressing needs...

- Paul says Jesus redeemed us to be a people who are "eager" to do good works. What's the difference between being "eager" and being "obligated"? What does your motivation for serving typically feel like?

- The sermon defined good works as "demonstrating God's love by meeting the needs of others in practical ways." Paul specifies serving "for pressing needs." What are some of the most "pressing needs" you see right now, both inside and outside the church walls?

3. Read 1 Corinthians 12:21-25 (NLT)

The eye can never say to the hand, "I don't need you." The head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you." In fact, some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary. And the parts we regard as less honorable are those we clothe with the greatest care... This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other.

- The sermon talked about "hidden" or "less glorious" roles in the church, comparing them to the metatarsophalangeal joint (the big toe joint!). What are some of these vital, behind-the-scenes roles in our church? Why are they so important?

- Have you ever felt like your contribution was too small or unimportant? How does this passage speak to that feeling?

4. The sermon describes how consumerism can seep into church life (e.g., "Am I being fed?" or critiquing small things). How have you seen or experienced this mentality in your own life or in churches?

5. In the sermon James said, "Doing good works is just as central to following Jesus as reading our Bibles or even spending time in prayer." Would you agree with this? How does this statement challenge or affirm your understanding of the Christian life?

6. As you reflect on the encouragement to serve as co-heirs in Christ's body, consider the various opportunities in our church, such as Kid's ministry, the welcome team, facilities support, meal train, or the tech team. If you are not already serving in these kinds of areas, are there any areas that you feel you might be drawn to? If not, what prevents you from being able to do so?

7. Beyond church service, how can you apply the "co-heir mindset" of doing good works in other areas of your life - at work, in your neighborhood, with your family?

Ephesians 2:8–10 (NIV)

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Titus 2:11–14 (CSB)

For the grace of God [Jesus] has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, instructing us to deny godlessness and worldly lusts and to live in a sensible, righteous, and godly way in the present age, while we wait for the blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for himself a people for his own possession.

Titus 2:14 (CSB)

He gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for himself a people **for his own possession**

Titus 2:14 (CSB)

He gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for himself a people for his own possession eager to do good works.

We Belong... and so we Serve**Titus 3:1 (CSB)**

Remind them... to be ready for every good work,

Titus 3:8 (CSB)

I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed God might be careful to devote themselves to good works.

Titus 3:14 (CSB)

Let our people learn to devote themselves to good works for pressing needs

Good Works:

Demonstrating God's love by meeting the needs of others in practical ways

Romans 8:17 (NIV)

if we are [God's] children, then we are heirs - heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ...

Galatians 4:7 (NIV)

So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

According to the Bible Doing good works is just as central to following Jesus as reading our Bibles or spending time in prayer.

1 Corinthians 12:18–31 (NLT)

But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it. How strange a body would be if it had only one part! Yes, there are many parts, but only one body. The eye can never say to the hand, "I don't need you." The head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you."

In fact, some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary. And the parts we regard as less honorable are those we clothe with the greatest care. So we carefully protect those parts that should not be seen, while the more honorable parts do not require this special care. So God has put the body together such that extra honor and care are given to those parts that have less dignity. This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other.

A central part of belonging to the body is serving one another.

Titus 3:14 (CSB)

Let our people learn to devote themselves to good works for pressing needs.

Places to Serve:

- Kid's Ministry
- Welcome Team
- Facilities Team
- Meal Train
- Tech Team