

# Pastor's Pen

Why do I have to go?

**"not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the day drawing near."**

**Hebrews 10:25**

If you have children, you have probably heard them ask, why do I have to attend church? It's a legitimate question. How did you respond? What would you say to a new believer about being a member of a local body? If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, if He is your Lord and Savior, belonging to a local body is not an option. After the three thousand were saved, what did they do? Luke records that they, *were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers* (Acts 2:42). They did church.

The New Testament contains over 50 one another's. The following are just 15 of them: Pray for one another (James 5:16), Greet one another (1 Corinthians 16:20), Be kindly affectionate to one another (Romans 12:10), Give preference to one another (Romans 12:10), Live peacefully with each other (Romans 12:16) Encourage one another (1 Thessalonians 5:11), Accept one another (Romans 15:7), Admonish & warn one another (2 Thessalonians 3:15), Serve one another (Galatians 5:13), Be patient with one another (1 Thessalonians 5:14), Bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2), Be kind to one another (Ephesians 4:32), Submit to one another (1 Peter 5:5), Be hospitable to one another (1 Peter 4:9), and Do not speak evil of one another (James 4:11).

Christian, should the Lord not expect more from you than your children's sports teams? If your child belongs to a sports team, specific requirements and expectations are expected and required from the child. They are expected to make a certain amount of practices, be on time for those practices, and show up for the game or event ready to do their part for the team or individual competition. If those requirements are not met, the child does not play and is let go from the team.

Some Christians care more about what a coach expects from their child than the Lord expects from His children.

God saved you for His glory and for us to love and serve one another. Does your life reflect that love and service? I submit that it is impossible to practice the one another's if you do not belong to and serve the local body.

Your shepherd,  
Pastor Mark

## Grace Gems

How to Serve  
Joshua 24:14-15  
-R.C. Sproul

Most of us readily identify such things as Bible study, prayer, and worship as essential to the Christian life and our growth in holiness (sanctification). We may be less likely, however, to identify service in the same way. This is unfortunate, as service to the Lord is emphasized from Genesis to Revelation. Consider, for example, how God called His people to serve Him while they were slaves in Egypt, sending Moses to call the pharaoh to release them (Ex. 8:1). Throughout his epistles, the Apostle Paul describes His relationship to Christ as one of servant to master (Rom. 1:1; 1 Cor. 4:1; Gal. 1:10). Of course, the call for us to serve the Lord is quite obviously discerned in Scripture.

### Quote of the Week

"Faith and works are bound up in the same bundle. He that obeys God trusts God; and he that trusts God obeys God. He that is without faith is without works; and he that is without works is without faith."

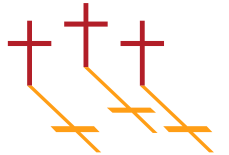
- Charles Spurgeon

Sometimes, however, it is harder to remember that one of the ways we serve God is in our service to others. After all, our Savior tells us that "whoever would be great among you must be your servant" (Matt. 20:26).

Service to the body of Christ is not a calling that is given only to ordained ministers and church leaders. When Paul explains that God's people have gifts to use in the church, he is not speaking only of select individuals but of everyone who is in Christ by faith alone (1 Cor. 12:1-11). Some gifts, such as teaching, are exercised in a manner that is more prominent than others. That does not mean, however, that the Lord sees some gifts and roles as inherently superior to other gifts that might be less visible to the body of Christ as a whole (vv. 12-31). Deacons attend to the needs of the widows and orphans not because it is beneath the dignity of elders to engage in mercy ministry but because elders are specifically gifted for prayer and teaching, and deacons are specifically gifted to steward the church's resources for the benefit of those in need (Acts 6:1-7). Believers whose gifts are exercised behind the scenes are no less important to the functioning of the church than those whose gifts require them to be in front of people all the time.

Those whom God has gifted to teach must teach. Those whom He has gifted with hospitality must serve, as best they can, the church's hospitality ministry. We could go on, but the important point to remember is that Jesus commands all of us to exercise our gifts in the church, to develop our ministry skills, and to help His church grow into full maturity (Eph. 4:11-14). Let us obey this call and be active, faithful servants.

Service to the Lord is not an impossible burden but a delight. Service is hard work, so we will grow tired and face difficulties on occasion. Nevertheless, God will sustain us so that we might serve Him faithfully and store up for ourselves treasures in heaven. If you have not been serving in your local church, now is the time to speak with your leaders so that you might find a place to put your time and talents to good use.



# Weekly Gatherings

## Bible Classes

Old & New Testament Classes  
Ladies Class  
Young Adults    Young Parents  
Youth            Surge  
Sunday Morning @ 9:30AM



## Weekday Meetings

Mondays | 7PM  
Men's Bible Study  
1st and 3rd Saturday  
Women of Grace | 9AM



## Family Groups

Thursdays @ 7PM  
every other week @ Chambers, Cox's,  
Patrick's, Brown's and Royall's



## Build the Body Teams

If you would like to serve on a BtB Team  
and forgot to sign up, please contact the  
team leader at the appropriate email  
address.



## Youth Study

Wednesdays @6:30PM  
Youth Study and AWANA!



## Service Times

Sunday Services 8AM & 11:00AM  
Sunday School 9:30AM  
Children's Church @11:00AM



Giving from service on 04/30/2023

General Offering .....	15,757.70
Building Fund .....	2,425.00
Uganda .....	295.00
Uganda Mission Trip .....	110.00
Benevolence .....	500.00
Total.....	\$19,087.70
Attendance .....	253
Online.....	26

**Uganda Mission Trip Amount Needed.\$12,750.00**  
**Uganda Mission Trip Collected...\$10,735.00**

*Build the Body Ministries*

Women's Ministry-women@ghbcva.org  
AWANA-awana@ghbcva.org  
Outreach Ministry-outreach@ghbcva.org  
Worship Ministry-worship@ghbcva.org  
Men's Ministry-men@ghbcva.org  
Children's Ministry-children@ghbcva.org  
Youth Ministry-youth@ghbcva.org  
Prayer Team-prayer@ghbcva.org  
Maintenance-maintenance @ghbcva.org  
Fellowship-fellowship@ghbcva.org  
Communications-communications@ghbcva.org  
Front Line-frontline@ghbcva.org  
Security-security@ghbcva.org



Grace Harvest  
Baptist Church  
go • gather • grow • go



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# Grace Harvest Baptist Church

May 07, 2023

Welcome