



THEOLOGY OF SERVICE

“Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.” *Matthew 25:40*

Our default mode as sinful human beings is to serve ourselves. But Jesus calls us to something radically different - He calls us to serve Him and others. So as the body of Christ, we want to participate in the work of the gospel and serve one another in love. No matter how big or small the tasks before us may seem, whether we're preaching the gospel to a crowd or serving someone a cup of coffee, our service matters to God.

Who We Serve

In *Matthew 25:34-40*, Jesus tells us that when we serve others in His name, we are serving Him. Our service isn't a religious obligation we fulfill out of fear of rejection or as a means of earning God's favor. As Christians, we know that God's full favor and acceptance have already been earned for us through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. We love and serve others in Jesus' name as grateful worship to God.

Why We Serve

While Jesus asks us to serve Him by following His commands, loving others, and spreading the gospel, it's important to note that He serves us before we ever serve Him (*John 13:12-16; Mark 10:45*). Our service is to be driven by a sense of gratitude for God's love and presence in our lives and by a desire to glorify Him in all we do. As *1 John 4:19* says, "We love because He first loved us."

How We Serve

At Reality LA, we believe that all fruitful ministry flows from intimacy with Jesus. This means that faithful service comes from an authentic, close relationship with Jesus (*Mark 3:14*). Just as Jesus' disciples didn't spread the gospel until they had received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (*Acts 1 - 2*), we want to serve Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit. Rather than relying on our own resolve, we want to continually depend on God for strength (*Colossians 1:29*).

In short, we seek to serve Jesus out of gratitude and obedience by the power of His Spirit in close communion with Him. This is at the very core of all ministry at Reality LA.