



## **The Church - The Community of Servanthood**

### **Key idea:**

The local church community is where we are taught humble servanthood as a virtue, where we practice acts of servanthood, and where our souls are shaped so that our whole life becomes characterized by the attitude and practices of servanthood.

### **Key text:**

Galatians 5:13–15

You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. 14 The entire law is summed up in a single command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” 15 If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

### **Key points:**

1. Through Christ and the Gospel, we experience true freedom.
2. True freedom is the ability to choose to follow God’s moral law, not the simple ability to choose what we want to do. Choosing sin is the worst and most degrading form of slavery!
3. Christians use our freedom not to indulge in radical independence but rather to serve others in love.
4. Each of us is gifted by God’s grace in ways we can use to serve others.
5. We are called to humble servanthood modeled on Christ.
6. The Church is the community and school where we are taught and shaped into servanthood.

### **Questions for discussion/application:**

1. What part of Sunday's teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. How does our culture seem to define freedom? Why is this definition insufficient? Can I think of concrete examples that show mere liberty of choice can be slavery rather than freedom?

3. Why is true freedom choosing the true, the beautiful, and the good, conforming myself to God's character as seen in His Law?
4. Why does Paul follow the statement about the freedom we have in Christ with a call to serve others? What is the relationship between being freed by Christ and becoming a servant to others?
5. How is the command "Love your neighbor as yourself" a summary of God's Law for how we are to treat others? How does it summarize commandments 5 through 10 of the 10 commandments? How does it fulfill them?
6. Am I only called to serve where I think I am gifted? If not, what is the relationship between the gifts God has given me by His grace and Spirit and the call for me to serve others?
7. What is the relationship between humility and being a servant? Is it possible to be a servant in a prideful way? How can concrete practices of serving others strengthen humility in me?
8. Given the current difficulties with the restrictions related to the coronavirus, what are some ways I might be able to practice servanthood? How can I serve others in BRCC during this time? How can I serve others outside of BRCC during this time? What is one specific thing I plan to do in the coming week to serve others?
9. Who will I call or see to encourage this week?