

ROOTED

A Flourishing Christian Life

Rooted - Improving Your Serve

Key idea:

We are called to grow in the act of selfless service and contribution to your local church, family, and community.

Key text:

Colossians 2:6-7

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

Philippians 2:3-8

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Key points:

1. Christians are called to be rooted in Christ through the gospel to flourish in their Christian life.
2. Service is a core aspect of the Christian life, following Jesus' example of selfless service.
3. We are called to have the mind of Christ, focusing on others rather than ourselves.
4. True flourishing comes from an outward focus on God and others, not an inward focus on self.

Discussion Questions:

1. Scott asked, "What would others say that you are always doing?" How would you answer this question? What does your answer reveal about your priorities and character?
2. How do you struggle with the tension between being a spectator versus a contributor in your faith and church community?
3. In what areas of your life do you find it most challenging to 'count others more significant than yourself', and why?
4. In what ways does our culture encourage us to be spectators rather than active participants? How can we resist this tendency?
5. How can we balance serving others with proper self-care, avoiding burnout while still embodying Christ's sacrificial love?
6. The teaching discussed Jesus' "emptying himself" to become human and serve. How does this challenge your understanding of service and sacrifice?
7. How do you typically respond when you notice something that needs to be done in your family, church, or community? What holds you back from serving instead of simply complaining or watching?
8. Scott mentioned that we were "created to serve." How does this idea impact your view of your purpose and daily activities?
9. In what areas of your life do you find yourself wanting to be the "GOAT" (greatest of all time)? How can you shift that focus to make Jesus the greatest in your story?

Practical Applications:

1. This week, intentionally look for small ways to serve others without being asked. Keep a journal of these acts and how they impacted you and others.
2. Reflect on your gifts and abilities. Identify one new way you could use these to serve in your church or community. Take a step towards getting involved in that area.
3. Practice the "mind of Christ" by consciously putting others' needs before your own in daily interactions. At the end of each day, reflect on how this changed your perspective and actions.
4. Evaluate your media consumption and how it might be cultivating a "spectator" mentality. Choose one way to become more actively engaged in your faith or community instead of passively consuming content.

5. In your prayer time this week, ask God to reveal areas where you've been focused on your own "greatness" rather than His. Confess these to Him and ask for help in reorienting your focus.
6. Reach out to someone in your church who consistently serves behind the scenes (like those who set up chairs or prepare communion). Thank them and ask how you might be able to help or learn from their example.