

Lesson 27: The 7th Essential of Holy Living: Christian Service

Memory Verse: "But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant."

Matthew 23:11

1. What is Christian Service?

Christian Service is **any single act performed** or **word spoken** in the name of Christ to aid any human being to know, love, and serve Him. It is the sum total of **all** the efforts put forth to rescue lost humanity. It is the **total task** of the Christian Church in a sinful world.

2. Who sends us to do this work? John 20:21 _____ sends us.

"Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath _____ me, even so _____."

3. What work does Jesus want us to do? Matthew 28:18-20 He wants us to

T _____ others **all** that He has C _____ us.

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All _____ is given unto me in _____ and in _____.

Go ye therefore,
and _____ all nations,
_____ them

in the _____ of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:
Teaching them to _____ all things

whatsoever I have _____ you:

and, lo, I am _____ you _____, even unto the _____ of the world. Amen."

Note: "Not more surely is the place prepared for us in the heavenly mansions than is the **special place** designated on earth **where we are to work for God**." COL 326.4

Ask Him to show you that special place and prepare yourself so that you will be able to fulfill God's purpose for you in your life.

4. What makes a person **great** in the kingdom of heaven? Matthew 20:26-28

The one who becomes a S _____ like J _____ was.

"But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be _____ among you,

Let him be your _____;

And whosoever will be _____ among you,

Let him be your _____:

Even as the _____ of man came not to be ministered _____,

But to _____, and to give his _____ a ransom for many."

Note: "In His life and lessons, **Christ has given a perfect exemplification of the unselfish ministry which has its origin in God**. God does not live for Himself. By creating the world, and by upholding all things, He is **constantly ministering for others**. 'He maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.' Matt. 5:45.

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This ideal of ministry God has committed to His Son. Jesus was given to stand at the head of humanity, that **by His example He might teach what it means to minister**. His whole life was under a law of service. He served all, ministered to all. Thus He lived the law of God, and by His example showed how we are to obey it." DA 649.4

"**Again and again Jesus had tried to establish this principle among His disciples**. When James and John made their request for pre-eminence, He had said, 'Whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister.' Matt. 20:26. In My kingdom the principle of preference and supremacy has no place. **The only greatness is the greatness of humility**. The only distinction is found in devotion to the service of others." DA 650.1

5. Who is the greatest? Matthew 23:11-12

"But he that is _____ among you shall be your _____.
And whosoever shall _____ himself shall be abased; and he that shall _____ himself shall be exalted."

Note: "Again and again Christ had taught that **true greatness is measured by moral worth**. In the estimation of heaven, **greatness of character consists in living for the welfare of our fellow men**, in doing works of love and mercy. Christ the King of glory was a **servant** to fallen man. DA 613.4

6. How will others know if we are His disciples? John 13:35

"By _____ shall all men _____ that ye are my disciples, if ye have _____ one to _____."

Note: "The great desire which Christ expressed for [His disciples] was that they might love one another as He had loved them. Again and again He spoke of this." DA 677.2

"To be children of God, members of the royal family, means more than many suppose. Those who are accounted by God as His children will reveal Christlike love for one another. **They will live and work for one object**, — the proper representation of Christ to the world. By their love and unity they will show to the world that they bear the divine credentials. **By the nobility of love and self-denial**, they will show those around them that they are true followers of the Saviour. 'By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.' ... SD 293.3

"The **most powerful evidence** a man can give that he has been born again and is a new man in Christ Jesus, is the manifestation of love for his brethren, **the doing of Christlike deeds**. This is the **most wonderful witness** that can be borne in favor of Christianity, and will win souls to the truth." SD 293.4

7. What did He say to them over and over? John 15:12,17

"This is my _____, That ye _____ one another, as I have _____ you."

"These things I _____ you, that ye _____ one another."

8. What was the very first thing He instructed them to do when He was alone with them in the upper chamber after Judas went out? John 13:34

"A _____ commandment I give unto you, That ye _____ one another; as I have _____ you, that ye also _____ one another."

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Note: "To the disciples this commandment was new; for they had not loved one another as Christ had loved them. He saw that **new ideas and impulses must control them**; that **new principles must be practiced by them**; through His life and death they were to receive a new conception of love. The command to love one another had a new meaning in the light of His self-sacrifice. **The whole work of grace is one continual service of love, of self-denying, self-sacrificing effort.** During every hour of Christ's sojourn upon the earth, the love of God was flowing from Him in irrepressible streams. All who are imbued with His Spirit will love as He loved. The very principle that actuated Christ will actuate them in all their dealing one with another. DA 677.2

"This love is the **evidence of their discipleship.** ... When men are bound together, not by force or self-interest, but by love, they show the working of **an influence that is above every human influence.** Where this oneness exists, it is evidence that the image of God is being restored in humanity, that **a new principle of life has been implanted.** It shows that there is power in the divine nature to withstand the supernatural agencies of evil, and that **the grace of God subdues the selfishness inherent in the natural heart.**" DA 678.1

9. Why does God want us to do this work? 1 John 4:7-11

"Beloved, let us _____ one another: for love is of _____; and every one that loveth is _____ of God, and _____ God. He that loveth _____ knoweth _____ God; for God is _____. In this was _____ the love of _____ toward us, because that God sent his only begotten _____ into the world, that we might live _____ him. Herein is _____, not that we loved God, but that _____ loved _____, and sent his _____ to be the propitiation for _____ sins. **Beloved, if God _____ loved us, we _____ also to _____ one another.**"

Note: The **whole object** of redemption is to **change our character** and restore it to the likeness of our Maker. **God is unselfish, kind, compassionate, merciful, loving, ever seeking to bless and help those in need**; the greater their need, the more earnest are His efforts to supply the need. When a world was lost, He sent His Son to go and rescue it, and in Him poured out the riches of heaven in the greatest act of benevolence of all eternity, past or future. We are, as sinners, by nature selfish, unthoughtful of others, ever seeking to get for ourselves and add to our own comfort and possessions with little regard for the welfare of others.

When offering redemption to the world God says to His children in the world, "Please, will you do this work for me? Will you go and save the lost just as I would do if I were there?"

If we say, "No, I do not want to do that kind of work"; or, "I am too busy", we reveal that we are still selfish and unkind and not like Him.

If we say, "Yes Lord, I will go and do the best I can if you will teach me how to do the work and send your Spirit and angels to guide me," this attitude reveals what progress has been made in changing our own character into His likeness. And furthermore, the change continues and is speeded up by our experience in doing the work. So, **our attitude toward others** shows how God-like we have become. And when we reach the place that we **love** and **work** for humanity as He does, and as Jesus did when He was here, **we then have become like Him.**

"Love to man is the earthward manifestation of the love of God. **It was to implant this love**, to make us children of one family, that the King of glory became one with us. ... When we love the world as He

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has loved it, then **for us His mission is accomplished**. We are fitted for heaven; for we have heaven in our hearts." DA 641.3

10. What is the result of doing this work? Proverbs 11:25

"The _____ soul shall be made _____: and he that _____ shall be _____ also himself."

Note: "He who seeks to give light to others will himself be blessed. ... God could have reached His object in saving sinners without our aid; but **in order for us to develop a character like Christ's, we must share in His work. In order to enter into His joy**, — the joy of seeing souls redeemed by His sacrifice, — **we** must participate in His labors for their redemption." DA 142.2

"By living to minister for others, man is brought into connection with Christ. The law of service becomes the **connecting link** which binds us to God and to our fellow men." COL 326.3

"If we would be **true lights** in the world, we must **manifest the loving, compassionate spirit of Christ**. To love as Christ loved means that we must practice self-control. It means that we must show unselfishness at all times and in all places. It means that we must scatter round us kind words and pleasant looks. These cost the giver nothing, but they leave behind a precious fragrance. Their influence for good cannot be estimated. **Not only to the receiver, but to the giver, they are a blessing; for they react upon him.** Genuine love is a precious attribute of heavenly origin, which increases in fragrance in proportion as it is dispensed to others." ML 80.2

11. How does Christ portray the great judgment day? Matthew 25:31-33

"When the Son of man shall come in his _____, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he _____ upon the _____ of his glory: And before him shall be gathered _____ nations: and he shall _____ them one from another, as a shepherd _____ his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the _____ on his _____ hand, but the _____ on the _____."

Note: "Thus Christ on the Mount of Olives pictured to His disciples the scene of the great judgment day. And He represented its **decision** as turning upon **one** point. When the nations are gathered before Him, there will be but **two** classes, and their **eternal** destiny will be determined by what they have **done** or have **neglected to do** for Him in the person of the poor and the suffering." DA 637.1

12. What does He say to the sheep? Matthew 25:34-36

"Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye _____ of my Father, inherit the _____ prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungered, and ye _____ me meat: I was thirsty, and ye _____ me drink: I was a stranger, and ye _____ me in: Naked, and ye _____ me: I was sick, and ye _____ me: I was in prison, and ye _____ unto me."

They have not lived to please themselves, but to be a blessing to others.

Note: "Those whom Christ commends in the judgment may have known little of theology, but they have **cherished His principles**. Through the influence of the divine Spirit **they have been a blessing to those about them**. Even among the heathen are those who have **cherished the spirit of kindness**; before the words of life had fallen upon their ears, they have befriended the missionaries, even

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ministering to them at the peril of their own lives. Among the heathen are those who worship God ignorantly, those to whom the light is never brought by human instrumentality, yet they will not perish. Though ignorant of the written law of God, they have heard His voice speaking to them in nature, and **have done the things that the law required. Their works are evidence that the Holy Spirit has touched their hearts**, and they are recognized as the children of God." DA 638.2

"Not to any class is Christ's love restricted. He identifies Himself with every child of humanity. That we might become members of the heavenly family, He became a member of the earthly family. He is the Son of man, and thus a brother to every son and daughter of Adam. His followers are not to feel themselves detached from the perishing world around them. They are a part of the great web of humanity; and Heaven looks upon them as brothers to sinners as well as to saints. The fallen, the erring, and the sinful, Christ's love embraces; and **every deed of kindness done to uplift a fallen soul, every act of mercy, is accepted as done to Him.** DA 638.4

"The **angels** of heaven are sent forth to minister to those who shall be heirs of salvation. We know not now who they are; it is not yet made manifest who shall overcome, and share the inheritance of the saints in light; but angels of heaven are passing throughout the length and breadth of the earth, seeking to comfort the sorrowing, to protect the imperiled, to win the hearts of men to Christ. **Not one is neglected or passed by.** God is no respecter of persons, and He has an **equal care** for all the souls He has created. DA 639.1

"As you open your door to Christ's needy and suffering ones, **you are welcoming unseen angels.** You invite the companionship of heavenly beings. They bring a sacred atmosphere of joy and peace. They come with praises upon their lips, and an answering strain is heard in heaven. **Every deed of mercy makes music there.** The Father from His throne numbers the unselfish workers among His **most precious treasures.**" DA 639.2

13. What do the righteous ask Him? Matthew 25:37-39

"Then shall the _____ answer him, saying, Lord, _____ saw we thee an hungered, and _____ thee? or thirsty, and _____ thee drink? _____ saw we thee a stranger, and _____ thee in? or naked, and _____ thee? Or _____ saw we thee sick, or in prison, and _____ unto thee?"

They do not realize that they have done anything special for Him.

14. What is His answer to them? Matthew 25:40

"And the _____ shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have _____ it unto one of the _____ of these my brethren, ye have _____ it unto _____."

Note: "The Saviour has given His precious life in order **to establish a church capable of caring for sorrowful, tempted souls.** A company of believers may be poor, uneducated, and unknown; yet in Christ they may do a work in the home, the neighborhood, the church, and even in 'the regions beyond,' whose results shall be as far-reaching as eternity." DA 640.4

"Those who minister to others will be ministered unto by the Chief Shepherd. They themselves will drink of the living water, and will **be satisfied.** They will **not be longing for exciting amusements**, or for some change in their lives. The **great topic of interest** will be, how to save the souls that are ready to perish. Social intercourse will be profitable. The love of the Redeemer will **draw hearts together** in unity." DA 641.1

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15. What is God's promise to all who work together with Him in unselfish ministry to others?

"When we realize that we are workers together with God, His promises will not be spoken with indifference. They will burn in our hearts, and kindle upon our lips. To Moses, when called to minister to an ignorant, undisciplined, and rebellious people, God gave the promise,

Exodus 3:12 "And he said, _____ I will be _____ thee."

Exodus 33:14 "My _____ shall go _____ thee, and I will _____ thee _____."

This promise is to all who labor in Christ's stead for His afflicted and suffering ones." DA 641.2

16. What does He say to the goats? Matthew 25:41-43

"Then shall he say also unto them on the _____ hand, Depart from me, ye _____, into everlasting _____, prepared for the _____ and his angels: For I was an hungered, and ye _____ me _____ meat: I was thirsty, and ye _____ me _____ drink: I was a stranger, and ye _____ me _____ in: naked, and ye _____ me _____: sick, and in prison, and ye _____ me _____."

These people spent their time and money in selfishness, in pleasing themselves, rather than in helping others.

Note: "In the great Judgment day, those who have **not** worked for Christ, who have **drifted along thinking of themselves, caring for themselves**, will be placed by the Judge of the whole earth **with those who did evil**. They receive the **same condemnation**. DA 641.4

"It is **because** this work is neglected that so many **young disciples never advance** beyond the mere alphabet of Christian experience. The light which was glowing in their own hearts when Jesus spoke to them, 'Thy sins be forgiven thee,' they might have kept alive **by helping those in need**. The restless energy that is so often a source of danger to the young might be directed into channels through which it would flow out in streams of blessing. **Self would be forgotten in earnest work to do others good.**" DA 640.5

"To every soul a trust is given.

Of everyone the Chief Shepherd will demand,

'Where is the flock that was given thee, thy beautiful flock?'

And 'what wilt thou say when He shall punish thee?' Jer. 13:20, 21." DA 641.5

17. What do they ask Him? Matthew 25:44

"Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, _____ saw we thee an hungered, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and _____ minister unto _____?" They do not think that they did anything particularly bad.

18. But what does Jesus say to them? Matthew 25:45

"Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye _____ it _____ to one of the _____ of these, ye _____ it **not** to _____."

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Note: "Let every one of our young disciples of Christ have an **unselfish love** for all other disciples of Christ. ... **Instead of seeking to become a favorite yourself**, or to flatter one who may be highly regarded, see if there is not a poor child who is not a favorite, to whom no special kindnesses are shown, and make this one the object of your unselfish attention.

Those who are especially attractive will be at no loss for friends;

while those who are less pleasing in appearance,

who are timid and hard to become acquainted with,

may have choice traits of character,

and they are the purchase of the blood of Christ." YI, May 25, 1893 par. 6

You can take an interest in them and become their friend.

19. What is the final reward for each of these groups? Matthew 25:46

☹ The selfish "shall go _____ into everlasting _____," the
"_____, prepared for the _____ and his angels." (verse 41)

☺ The righteous, unselfish people shall go "into _____ eternal" to _____ the
K_____ prepared for them from the foundation of the _____." (verse 34)