



Connect – Serving – Make A Difference

September 17th, 2023

Today we are continuing a series of conversations talking about the topic of Connect. Our goal in this series is to do everything we can to get you connected to God, connected to each other, and connected to the Church here at Atlee. We have designed this series to make it super easy for you to get connected and to know the most important parts of the Church here and the difference that these areas can make in your life if you choose to play a part in them. Today we are going to look at the big topic of Serving.

Scriptures:

1 Corinthians 12:4-27 NIV, Mark 10:45 NIV, and Matthew 9:36-38 NIV

Let's answer two big questions today. How do we serve and why should we serve?

We serve because it allows us to use our God given gifts.

1 Corinthians 4:4-6 NLT

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us.

There are different gifts, but the same God works in ALL of us. It's important that we pay attention to that word all. God works through all of us. I think for some of us we are like God could give that person great gifts or abilities to serve, but me...I don't have much to offer. And that is simply not true.

We serve because it connects us to a bigger purpose.

1 Corinthians 4:13-14 NLT

But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit. Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part.



We all share in these gifts. God has given us all that we are able to do and when we collectively gather together and use them for his good it connects us to a bigger purpose and a bigger plan. Our lives are no longer just about us, they are being used to connect others to story and his story. Our gifts, our service, our talents, all showcase how good God is and how big his purpose for all of us is.

We serve because it allows us to make a difference.

1 Corinthians 4:25-30 MSG

The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as a church: every part dependent on every other part, the parts we mention and the parts we don't, the parts we see and the parts we don't. If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in the healing. If one part flourishes, every other part enters into the exuberance.

All of us have the opportunity to take our gifts and use them for God's good. I think about all of the people who serve every week and without them we wouldn't be able to make the difference we are making.

We serve because he first served us.

Mark 10:45 NIV

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Jesus gave us the ultimate example of service. He served us. I wouldn't be here today if someone didn't take their time, energy, and resources to serve me and tell me about how Jesus came to serve me. Now I get to go and serve others.