

MAY – “Services”

***Church members are not customers or consumers,  
but even God’s people need to know that they are  
loved and wanted and cared for in the Family of God.***

OPENING PRAYER. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Let us pray. Father, Your love for the world transcends our knowledge, and it also inspires our hearts to show genuine and complete care for everyone. Move us in such a way that our lives would truly reflect who You are – the God of love. Amen

READ: John 3:16

<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Church That Works, Part 15 “Services”

“People who need Christ will be drawn to our Lord because they see us loving each other (John 13:34-35) not because our techniques are sound. Yes, we need to be sure the strategic side of our ministry is solidly in place. People will be turned away from our Lord if we conduct ministry in a sloppy and thoughtless manner. But the underlying reason people are drawn to Christ is our loving service to each other.” (p. 229)

ASK

1. What is your congregation’s reputation in the community? Have you ever asked to find out?
2. What happens to a congregation’s witness when it has the reputation of being “closed” and “unfriendly” and “judging”? What happens to a congregation’s witness when it has the reputation of being “open” and “caring” and “forgiving”?
3. List five ways your congregation has done a loving action for an individual or a family since Christmas.

DISCUSS

1. Jesus and the Apostles got a lot of attention and also “ruffled a lot of feathers” when they cared for people’s needs while violating the traditions and customs of the day. The “Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath.” Is your Board more interested in serving people or keeping the institution alive?
2. “Christ came to serve and not be served.” In what ways are love, mercy, and kindness shown at your church dinners, the Communion Table, Confirmation classes, Vacation Bible School, phone calls or people anonymously soliciting for help?

CLOSING PRAYER IDEA

Visit and pray for your congregation’s ministry of human care (i.e. food pantry, soup kitchen, community vegetable garden)

JUNE’S DEVOTION. “Systems Change “. Who will the leader be?