

The Church Myth

3rd John

Gaius – “Rejoice”

- **Disciple**
- **Christo**-centric
- **Helper** of the Gospel
- **Contributed** to the Church

Diotrephes – “Fed by Zeus”

- **Christian**
- **Ego**-centric
- **Hindrance** to the Gospel
- **Used** the Church

Killing the Myth

1. Stop being **consumers** and become **contributors**.
1 Peter 4:7-10
2. The church’s role is **equipping**, my role is **bringing**.
Ephesians 4:11-13
3. **Giving** is an essential act of **worship**; not dues or charity.
Hebrews 9:1-10, 10:1-25, 13:10-16
4. How do I honor church **leadership**?
1 Timothy 5:17-18
5. Where has my **critical spirit** dishonored what Jesus died to love?
Ephesians 5

Life Group Study Questions

For the week of October 21, 2018

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1 This weekend's message was about the false understandings people have about the definition of church. Growing up, when you thought about church, what image came to mind or what feeling did you experience?

What had the biggest impact on your image or feeling about church?

2 Christopher referred to giving money to the church as an essential act of worship. What do you think your friends and family who don't attend church think about the idea of giving money to a church?

DIGGING DEEPER

1 Christopher encouraged us to not be consumers who come to church simply to get what we can. Instead, he suggested we consider ourselves contributors and servants. What do you learn about what it means to be a servant (and what we can expect when we serve) from each of these passages?

Matthew 20:20-28 - (NIV) - ²⁰ Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him. ²¹ "What is it you want?" he asked. She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom." ²² "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?" "We can," they answered. ²³ Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father." ²⁴ When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. ²⁵ Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ²⁶ Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— ²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Luke 17:7-10 - (NIV) - ⁷ "Suppose one of you has a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Will he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, 'Come along now and sit down to eat'? ⁸ Won't he rather say, 'Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink'? ⁹ Will he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do? ¹⁰ So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.'"

What do you find most challenging about the attitude expressed in these verses?

How could understanding what it means to be a servant help someone serve with a positive attitude?

2

A good example of someone who could have had a critical spirit and not honored his leadership is David when King Saul was searching for him to kill him. Obviously our struggle with a critical spirit is far different than what David faced, but how he responded to a situation he didn't like can offer helpful insights for us. How could David's attitude and actions found in 1 Samuel 24:1-13 help someone who is tempted towards having a critical spirit about things they don't like at a church?

1 Samuel 24:1-13 - (NIV) -¹After Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was told, "David is in the Desert of En Gedi."² So Saul took three thousand able young men from all Israel and set out to look for David and his men near the Crag of the Wild Goats.³ He came to the sheep pens along the way; a cave was there, and Saul went in to relieve himself. David and his men were far back in the cave.⁴ The men said, "This is the day the LORD spoke of when he said^[b] to you, 'I will give your enemy into your hands for you to deal with as you wish.'" Then David crept up unnoticed and cut off a corner of Saul's robe.⁵ Afterward, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of his robe.⁶ He said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the LORD's anointed, or lay my hand on him; for he is the anointed of the LORD."⁷ With these words David sharply rebuked his men and did not allow them to attack Saul. And Saul left the cave and went his way.⁸ Then David went out of the cave and called out to Saul, "My lord the king!" When Saul looked behind him, David bowed down and prostrated himself with his face to the ground.⁹ He said to Saul, "Why do you listen when men say, 'David is bent on harming you'?"¹⁰ This day you have seen with your own eyes how the LORD delivered you into my hands in the cave. Some urged me to kill you, but I spared you; I said, 'I will not lay my hand on my lord, because he is the LORD's anointed.'¹¹ See, my father, look at this piece of your robe in my hand! I cut off the corner of your robe but did not kill you. See that there is nothing in my hand to indicate that I am guilty of wrongdoing or rebellion. I have not wronged you, but you are hunting me down to take my life.¹² May the LORD judge between you and me. And may the LORD avenge the wrongs you have done to me, but my hand will not touch you.¹³ As the old saying goes, 'From evildoers come evil deeds,' so my hand will not touch you.

Can you think of any ways David's attitude toward Saul could have affected his relationship with his men?

3

Being a contributor in a church instead of a consumer means we need to figure out how we can invest our time, talent and treasures in the church. The two passages below talk about serving in a church (called the "body of Christ" in these passages). How could these verses help us appreciate the differences in our roles and clarify the importance and purpose of carrying out our assignments?

Romans 12:3-8 - (NIV) -³For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function,⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your^[a] faith;⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach;⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

1 Corinthians 12:12-20 - (NIV) -¹²Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.¹³ For we were all baptized by^[a] one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.¹⁴ Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.¹⁵ Now if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body.¹⁶ And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body.¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be?¹⁸ But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.¹⁹ If they were all one part, where would the body be?²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

Have you ever found yourself serving in a role that didn't fit you? What happened?

What could happen if someone wasn't playing their part?

Can you think of any benefits we get from sharing our gifts and abilities with others?

As you think about making a contribution, are there any abilities and gifts you have that you could possibly use at church?

TAKING IT HOME

1 Looking back on this week's sermon and study, what's most important for you to remember?

2 One of the best ways to find out what your gifts and abilities are is to start serving. Below is just a sampling of the many ministries within the church where you could use your abilities. Are there any new service opportunities that you need to consider (or reconsider) as a result of this weekend's teaching?

- Nursery or Children's Ministries
- Student Ministries
- Adult Ministries
- Care / Concern / Connection Ministry
- Tech., Facilities, Administrative Ministries
- Community Service (Check out: northcoastchurch.com/service)

To get information on these and many other serving opportunities go to northcoastchurch.com/volunteers

PRAYER REQUESTS

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COMMUNITY SERVICE IMPACT

Community Service is a ministry of North Coast Church dedicated to being the hands and feet of Jesus and showing God's love in tangible ways through service to the community. There are many options for you to serve. For ideas, check out NorthCoastCommunityService.org