

GRACE BIBLE CHURCH

— *Lorton* —

Serving the Body of Christ

Various Scriptures

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Having considered some of the ways that believers in Jesus Christ are blessed by the local church, we turn our attention to giving back to the Lord's church. We'll see incentives for serving in and giving to the local church, along with four characteristics of that serving and giving.

Kyriakon – Belonging to the Lord

The church is a gathering of the Lord's people; an assembly that belongs to Him.

Three Motives for Giving Back to God's Church:

- Gratitude
- Stewardship
- Love (for God and for His people)

Questions

1. How would you describe the church to a new believer? Read Acts 20:28; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 1 Timothy 3:15. Keep in mind the Greek word translated *church* meant "called out ones," and was used in that culture to speak of an assembly of people.
2. Read 2 Corinthians 9:10-12. In what ways does serving and giving in the body produce thanksgiving? Think about how you give to the local church or other Christian ministries. Is that act of giving often marked by thanksgiving for God's provision of your giving?
3. Read 1 John 4:7-21. What do you learn about the nature of love? Why is it so important to understand God's love for His people, and what does that mean for your relationships within the church?
4. Do you regularly find yourself serving/giving cheerfully or from a sense of obligation? How can you grow more cheerful in serving/giving?
5. Where do you find it the most challenging to be sacrificial in your serving and/or giving?
6. What does it look like to commit your total self to serving the Lord and His church? Is there an area that you have tended to hold back?
7. For personal reflection: Where are you at in terms of starting to give and/or serve, or evaluating your current giving and serving?

*Need prayer?
Someone will be up front by the piano
to pray with you after the 1st & 2nd services.*

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Four Characteristics of Serving & Giving in God's Church:

1. Heartfelt

2. Sacrificial

3. Total

4. Ongoing

Three Words of Application

Start – Prayerfully ask God for help to begin serving and/or giving.

Grow – Periodically evaluate God's provision to see if there's room to increase in your giving and/or serving.

Cultivate – Patiently help others grow in these disciplines and testify to them of how He has nurtured your growth.