**Sermon Notes**

“**Improving Your Serve”**

**1. When it comes to serving in love, we are called to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

* Matthew 20:28
Even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

**2. Freedom in Christ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Service in Love!**

* Galatians 5:13-14
You were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

**3. Serving in Love is critical because it \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ love.**

* 1 John 3:18
Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

**4. God calls us to serve, even in the midst of our own \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

* See John 13:12-14

**5. There is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in service.**

* Proverbs 11:25
Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.

**6. Serving in love is not the same as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

* Colossians 3:23-24
23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, 24 since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

**7. Through our service, others are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

* 1 Corinthians 9:19
For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them.

**8. You are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to serve.**

* 1 Peter 4:10
Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.
* www.spiritualgiftstest.com

**9. Serving in love frees you from the prison of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

* Ecclesiastes 5:10
Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. This too is meaningless.

**10. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the eyes of Jesus is achieved through humble, loving service to others.**

* Jesus said, "... whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant" (Mt. 20:26).

**Questions for Reflection/Discussion**

1. If you had to share the single most important or convicting insight from this message with another person, what would it be and why?

2. Complete the Spiritual Gifts assessment at www.spiritualgiftstest.com. Share your results with your group or a discussion partner. Were you surprised at the results? How could you use your gift to serve our church family?

3. Where in your life is adopting the attitude of a servant difficult? Why? What might a next step of maturity look like in this area?

4. Read Galatians 5:13-14. Why would God lead Paul to write these words to the church in Galatia? What does it reveal about how the church was living out the implications of “freedom in Christ”? Do you see similar patterns in today’s churches?

5. What step can you take this week to more effectively serve in love?