COLOSSIANS 1:27-29
GROWING IN CHRISTIAN CHARACTER (PART 7)

Growing in Humility & SERVANTHOOD

SENIOR PASTOR LAWRENCE CHUA 20 SEPT 2020 Colossians 1:27-29 (CEV)

God did this because he wanted you Gentiles to understand his wonderful and glorious mystery. And the mystery is that Christ lives in you, and He is your hope of sharing in God's glory. ²⁸ We announce the message about Christ, and we use all our wisdom to warn and teach everyone, so that all of Christ's followers will grow and become mature. ²⁹ That's why I work so hard and use the mighty power he gives me.

Theme Verse

Colossians 1:28b (CEV)

"... all of Christ's followers will grow and become mature."

Part 7 GROWING IN HUMILITY & SERVANTHOOD

Luke 22:14-30 John 13:1-17









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Introduction

b) Catching the CP DNA by our FDW DJC

Street Evangelism by Filipino Cell



Introduction

c) Consumerism and competitiveness:
Awesome God and humble Servant

- Lessons from the institution of the Lord's supper:
- Two weeks ago, the message was set in the backdrop of contemporary consumeristic culture of modern society.

And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." ²⁰ Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you. ²¹ But behold, the hand of My betrayer is with Me on the table. ²² And truly the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom He is betrayed!" ²³ Then they began to question among themselves, which of them it was who would do this thing.

²⁴ Now there was also a dispute among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest. ⁵ And He said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those who exercise authority over them are called 'benefactors.' ²⁶ But not so among you; on the contrary, he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves. ²⁷ For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves?

Is it not he who sits at the table? Yet am among you as the One who serves. ²⁸ "But you are those who have continued with Me in My trials. ²⁹ And I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed one upon Me, 30 that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel." Luke 22:14-30 (NKJV)

- Remember Jesus as someone who is not ashamed of:
 - His association with sinners
 - dying on the cross for sinners

- Lessons from the occasion of the Lord's Supper:
 - the example of Jesus in servanthood
 - message is set in the backdrop of the competitive culture of modern society

And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him, ³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, ⁴ rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. ⁵ After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. ⁶ Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?"

⁷ Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this." 8 Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me." 9 Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you." 11 For He knew who would betray Him; therefore He said, "You are not all clean."

¹² So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? 13 You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. ¹⁴ If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. 16 Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. 17 If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. John 13:1-17 (NKJV)

Road Map

- 1. He who sits at the table: the greater
- 2. Among you as one who serves: the lesser

1) He who sits at the table: the greater

Now there was also a dispute among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest.

Luke 22:27 (NKJV)

For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table?

Luke 22:27a (NKJV)

- 1) He who sits at the table: the greater
- Jesus recognizes that the one who sits at the table and who is served by the waiter is the greater.
- relative position and privilege of servant and guest/master

- 1) He who sits at the table: the greater
- Modern society who gets to sit at the table and who ends up serving?
 - → one who has made it
- makes people in society very competitive

- 1) He who sits at the table: the greater
- National value in Singapore
 - → We call it meritocracy
 - → social stratification in our society creates inequalities

- 1) He who sits at the table: the greater
- We flock together and reinforce culture of choice
 - modern church has unwittingly allowed this competitiveness and meritocracy to creep into the church community

- 1) He who sits at the table: the greater
- leads to church stratification in the city
- For who is greater, he was sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the One who serves.

 Luke 22:27 (NKJV)

- 1) He who sits at the table: the greater
- crept also into the local church
- unfortunate reality recognized by Jesus
- "Is it not he who sits at the table?"

- 1) He who sits at the table: the greater
- What happens in church when the social status of members is not clearly differentiated?
- Who ought to serve and who gets to be served?

- 1) He who sits at the table: the greater
- Wait it out to see who finally would serve especially in lowly work.
- At the Supper there was only one with a greater standing.
- Certain service was required.

- 1) He who sits at the table: the greater
- washing of feet before the commencement of Supper
- meritocratic society demands privileges for those who merit
- meritorious ones tend to be conceited

- 1) He who sits at the table: the greater
- add meritocracy, competition, stratification and conceit together and you get an uncaring society
- Jesus recognizes the reality of modern society but He went on to say "yet"...

> "Yet I am among you as the One who serves." Luke 22:27b (NKJV)

Jesus turned the values of modern society upside down.

EXHORTATION - SERVING - TEACHING - GIVING

DEPUNE TENCHING - GI

JEKVING - TEACHING - 6

- Competitiveness and meritocracy in this world are replaced by suffering for Christ and the reward of reigning with Christ in the Kingdom of God.

ERCY.

-AHURIA-AIN SORVIN

MOITATION

SERVING - TEACHING - GI

SERVING - TEACHING - GIVING MERCY

"But you are those who have continued with Me in My trials. ²⁹ And I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed one upon Me, ³⁰ that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel." Luke 22:28-30 (NKJV)

ERCY

16 - GIVING

WURTATION -

SERVING - TEACHING -

SERVING - TEACHING - GIVING MERCY

SERVING - TEACHING - GI

SERVING TEACHING - GIV

 position of greater is replaced by the accepting the role of the lesser

But not so among you; on the contrary, he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves.

Luke 22:26 (NKJV)

- Stratification is replaced by integration.

For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, ⁵ so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Romans 12:4 (NKJV)

ERCY - EXHORIAN

WARTATION - SERVING - 1-

SERVING - TEACHING -

SENVING - TEACHING - GIVING MEK

Conceit is replaced by humility.

For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

Romans 12:3 (NKJV)

FRUING - TEACHING - GI

SERVING - TEACHING -

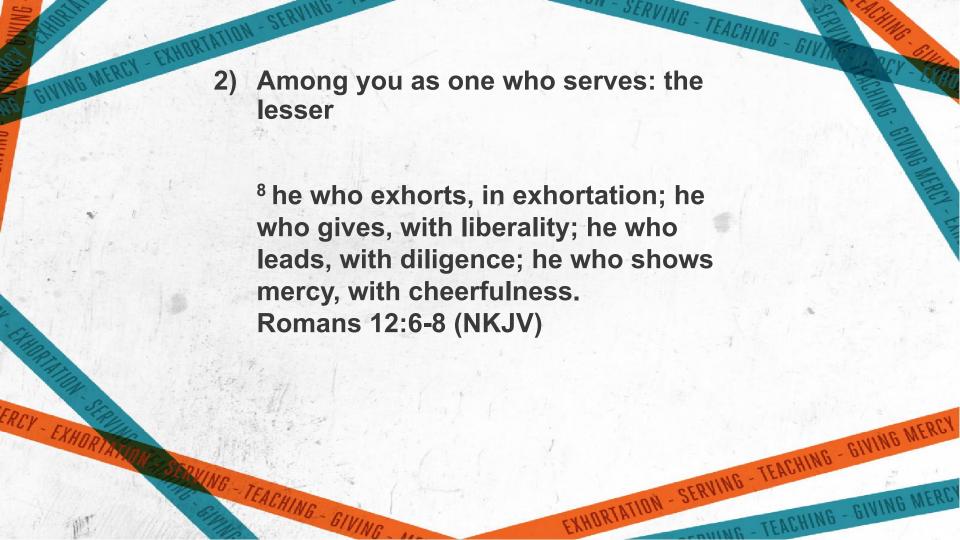
 Uncaring indifference is replaced by interdependence.

Romans 12:6-8 (NKJV)
Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; ⁷ or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching;

ERCY - EXHORIAN

- MOITATOON

SERVING - TEACHING - GIVING MERCY



- Serving one another in very humble capacity
 - Our serving one another may involve the most menial and lowly task.

"Yet I am among you as the One who serves." Luke 22:27b (NKJV)

EXHORTATION - SERVING - TEACHING - GIVING MERC

SERVING - TEACHING - GI

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Philippians 2:5-8 (NKJV)

RCY.

- TEACHING - GIVING

EXHORTATION - SERVING - TEACHING - GIVING MERCY

SERVING - TEACHING

- Jesus setting the example of taking off outer garment, kneeling down and washing the feet of His disciples.

- Jesus set the compelling example

EXHORTATION - SERVING - TEACHING - GIVING MERC

SERVING - TEACHING - GI

If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.

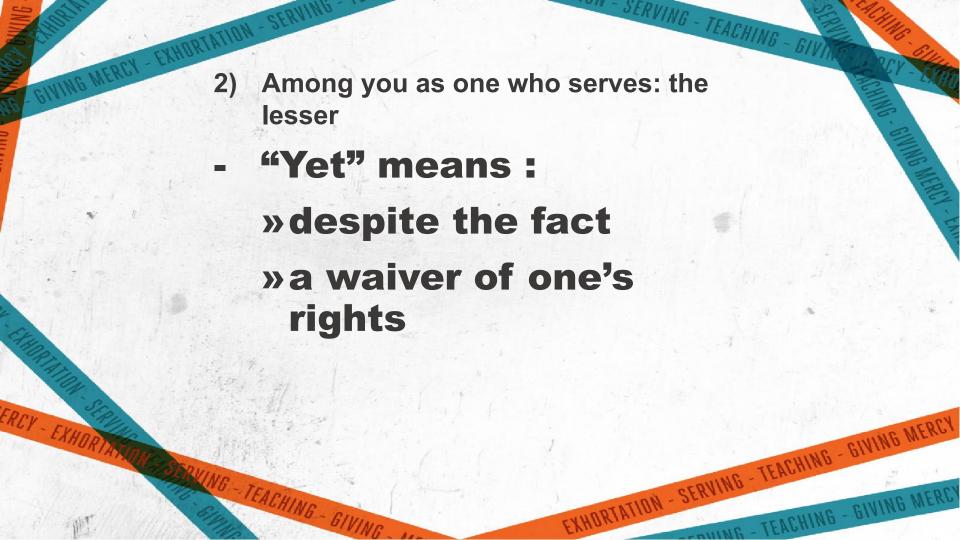
John 13:14-15 (NKJV)

Jesus said "yet": "Yet I am among you as the One who serves." Luke 22:27b (NKJV)

RCY - EXHORIAN

EXHORTATION - SERVING - TEACHING - GIVING MERC

SERVING - TEACHING - G



- Within the church context:
 - refuse stratification
 - to extol equality
 - be willing to associate with the lowly

ERCY - EXHORIAN

EXHORIATION - SERVING - TEACHING - GIVING MER

SERVING - TEACHING - G

- The larger question is who do you associate with?
- The challenge that Jesus gives us is to be prepared to associate with the poor.

ERCY - EXHORIMA

EXHORTATION - SERVING - TEACHING - GIVING MERC

SERVING - TEACHING - GI

Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. Romans 12:16 (NKJV)

Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty [conceited, self-important, exclusive], but associate with humble people [those with a realistic self-view]. Do not overestimate yourself. Romans 12:16 (AMP)

ERCY - EXHOR

WORTATION - SEP

BERVING - TEACHING - G

SERVING - TEACHING - GIVING MERCY

Live together in peace with each other. Don't be proud, but be willing to be friends with people who are not important to others. Don't think of yourself as smarter than everyone else.

Romans 12:16 (ERV)

PCY - EXHORITANDO - GIVING MERC

EXHORTATION - SERVING TEACHING - GIVING MERC

W SERVING - TEACHING -

- Jesus occupies the highest place of honour but chose to condescend Himself to take on the status of a bond servant.

- We should have the same way of thinking, the same attitude of Christ.

EXHORTATION - SERVING - TEACHING - GIVING MERC

SERVING - TEACHING - GI

 uncaring attitude of a person starts with dissociation from lowly people

- no longer have any thought for the lowly people
- no concern for the lowly people as human being like us

KHORTATION - SERVING - TEACHING - GIVING MERC

- Serving one another is not serving only the other
 - When we serve in the church it is a matter of serving one another and not just serving the other.

ERCY - EXHORIANDING

EXHORTATION - SERVING - TEACHING - GIVING MERC

SERVING - TEACHING - G

- 2) Among you as one who serves: the lesser
- Everybody must serve.
- 1 Corinthians 12

Romans 12:9-16 (NKJV)

Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.

¹⁰ Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honour giving preference to one another;

ERCY - EXHORIAN

EXHORTATION - SERVING - TEACHING - GIVING MER

SERVING - TEACHING -

¹¹ not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; 12 rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; 13 distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. **Romans 12:9-16 (NKJV)**

SERVING - TEACHING - G

TEACHING - 61

- "Be of the same mind to one another" means having the same attitude.

- Outcome of such a practice in church is the growth of character qualities of humility and servanthood.

FRCY.

KLY - EXHORIZADING

MOITATON.

SERVING - TEACHING -

DEPUMS - TEACHING - GIVING

Conclusion

SEKVING - TEACHING - GI

CYHORTATION - SERVING - TEACHING - GIVING MERCY