

LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE – SERVING

INTRO

John 13:35 says *“By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (NIV)*

How are we different from others?

“Even as age humbles me, it feeds my arrogance. There’s still nothing that interests me as much as myself.” **Pete Townshend – The Who**

What a sad place to be.

A Sunday Times quote said:

“Most people want to serve God - but only in an advisory capacity”

Galatians 2:20 says *“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me” (NIV)*

The opposite of Pete.... *We no longer live...but Christ in us*

BUSY!!!!

Life is made up of tasks.

Q) How much of your day is on the move, doing things?

Are these worthwhile?

Are they bearing fruit?

Anyone seen the film Elf?

SHOW SLIDE 1 & 2

Buddy is a grown man who lives in Lapland with Elves. He is told that he has a father in New York called Walter and sets out to find him.

When he finds Walter he moves in with him, his wife and young son Michael. Buddy finds out that Walter isn't very nice.

He's obsessed with work and has no time for family.

Let me read a story of:

Martha: Hotel housekeeper, Indiana

The day begins at 6:30 or ten to 7. We start folding towels, get our carts ready, and then we have a 15-minute break to eat breakfast. At 8 we punch in and finally start getting paid. They give us 30 minutes for each vacant room, 10 if it's still occupied. When I first started 10 years ago, we'd clean 14 to 15 rooms in a day. Now we clean 40—to save money, they told us. It's always run, run, run! I don't eat lunch anymore.

If I don't finish in time, they'll cut my hours the following week. Sometimes I'll clock out and then go back upstairs for a half-hour to finish.

I can't go out after work because I'm so tired. I never party. My arms, my feet, my back often hurt so bad that I can't sleep at night. Last week, I was reaching for the shampoo bottles in a shower and I fell and hurt my knee. They told me that I had to keep working. I felt so disillusioned. But I can't quit.

**Some of us like Walter are driven and make ourselves busy
Other like Martha, are forced to busy**

BE LIKE JESUS

We are called to be like Jesus...to SERVE

BUT how can we serve if we are stressed and over worked?

**If our priorities are wrong then we become selfish and driven
If our priorities are wrong then we get pushed into things.**

John 15:5

It's so simple but true:

- Spend time with Him
- Let God love you
- Then you will be able to serve.

If we are to serve as Christians, we must return to the source of Love.

Otherwise...?

1 Corinthians 13:1- 8, 13

God is love, so we need to be around Him!!

When we are around nice friends, we feel happy.

When we have a nice holiday, we feel refreshed.

When we are around God's love, We feel alive!

It's the energy God gives to serve – His Holy Spirit, His love, Himself.

CONCLUSION

At the end of the movie ELF, Walter realise there's more to life than work.

He accepts Buddy as his son and spends time with his family.

Walter gets his priorities straight

PRIORITIES

What are yours?

Paul says:
Philippians 2:1-11

God doesn't say: *your needs are not important*
BUT *love as you are loved by Me.*

...and God's 3 promises are:

1. **Luke 6:38**
2. **Proverbs 11:25**
3. **Galatians 6:9**

Someone once said:
Live differently, Love greatly, Forgive much.

John 13:35

PRAY