

Inviting People into the Adventure and Growth of Serving

By Shirley Giles Davis

As a ministry leader, you have the privilege of inviting people into the adventure of living as Christ-followers in every corner of their lives. Helping people see their whole lives as ministry, not just what is done in the context of Sunday or church, is a great gift you can give as you disciple them and engage them in your ministry area in various ways.

Your invitation involves many things, including:

Inviting people to understand that all they do can be valued as working for God:

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

Inviting people to find joy in servanthood:

- Isaiah 65:14 My servants will sing out of the joy of their hearts...
- Luke 10:1, 17 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go... 17 The seventy-two returned with joy...
- John 15:10-12 If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

Inviting people to understand that their service is a form of worship:

- Romans 12:1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

Inviting people to see that they are grace-givers:

- 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.

Inviting people into God's call to serve:

- Ephesians 4:11-13 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that that body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Inviting people into the adventure of discovering and using how God has uniquely gifted them:

- 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

Inviting people to be an integral part of the unique, diverse community that is the Body of Christ:

- 1 Corinthians 12:4-6, 12, 14, 18-20, 27
- 4 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. 5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6 There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.
- 12 Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ... 14 Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.
- 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....27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

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