

GREATER BETHEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, INC.

Dr. Brett Snowden, Pastor

“Investing in the Kingdom of God, by Sowing Seeds for the Savior” – Matthew 13:24

LESSON: STAYING CONNECTED IN SERVICE

Scripture: Ephesians 5:15-21

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Serving in the church is not about what I desire.

Can you imagine what the church would be like if members focused less on getting what they want and concentrating more on serving others?

Christians sometimes approach church life with a Diva Mentality. We expect the church to cater to our preferences and serve our needs. Sometimes we even get angry and threaten to leave when things don't go our way.

What does the Bible say about consistency in the Christian life? Ephesians 5:15-17, Paul urged church members to avoid foolishness and live wisely.

An independent survey was conducted in 2015 of churches identified as self-serving and inwardly focused. That survey revealed 10 behavior patterns in such churches.

- 1) Worship Wars - Church members clash over music styles, instrumentation, and order of service.
- 2) Prolonged minutia meetings - Leaders spend an inordinate amount of time in meetings.
- 3) Facilities Focus - The church places a high priority on protecting rooms and furniture.
- 4) Program Driven - Programs become an end instead of a means of greater ministry.

- 5) Inwardly Focused budget - A disproportionate share of the budget is used for the needs and comfort of the church members rather than reaching people outside the church.
- 6) Inordinate demands for pastoral care - Church members place unreasonable expectations on the pastor and staff to care for them, even when they have no significant need.
- 7) Attitudes of Entitlement - Church members act as if they deserve special treatment.
- 8) Greater concerns about change than the Gospel - Church members get fired up if you move their classroom, but they don't care about participating in the work of the Gospel.
- 9) Anger and Hostility - Members regularly express hostility towards staff and other members.
- 10) Evangelistic Apathy - Members care more about their own needs than the greater eternal needs of the world and community around them.

All these patterns are foolish because they work against our mission from the Lord as followers of Christ. We need to live wisely, which means serving others in a way that is motivated by God's priorities and not our personal wants and comforts.