

Series: 'The Table'

11/6/16

Waiting Tables (*Acts 6:1-7, NIV*)

Tables have a prominent place in both the OT and NT. We will be looking at a couple of 'table' themes in November.

(Why this is important to me)

It's important to know my place in God's family and church. If I contribute in the wrong way, I don't find fulfillment and things don't get done for God. If I find out how to serve other's in the name of God my life will be filled with purpose and meaning.

(Why it's important for our members)

- Idleness leads to frustration in life. Yet Jesus says, I have come to give you *abundant* life!
- The answer to a fulfilling life comes through serving others

(What does God say about waiting tables)

1. Like today, the early church had needy people, too.

- Even in church someone will get overlooked...
- Was it intentional? On Purpose? Probably not.

- If we see a 'hole' in our ministry, we need to not only raise the concern but be willing to be part of the solution

2. Ministry priorities are based on roles, gifting and needs.

- As a church, there is much to do for God
- Placement of volunteers / staff / people who serve is critical so that we do well offering Jesus

3. What is the main role of a Pastor?

"Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to do everything that needs to be done in the church: visit family's in the hospital; attend all meetings; vacuum floors and always be in their office from 9 – 5PM."

Lol! No, here is the what the Bible says in Ephesians:

"Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ." -Ephesians 4:12-13, NLT

3. The Pastor's roles are teaching and equipping.

- This is backwards from most churches, especially in the American church (minister is paid to do everything!)
- When a pastor does all the work, much never gets done!
- Also, people don't grow, mature in their faith
- We grow as we apply Jesus' teachings...serving, loving, giving, going...

4. A Deacon's role is to assist with needs in a church.

- Some have a role to fill in the local church and we call them deacons
- Currently FCOG does not have 'deacons'
- We need to pray and discern God's activity in our church family and consider who we may place in this role of service

(What do I personally need to do?)

Where is *my* Table?

1. Start with other's needs.

- It's not real spiritual!
- Is someone's hungry, food. If it's a ride, a ride...
- Get involved by serving

2. Know your gift, know your part / role.

“Now here is what I am trying to say: All of you together are the one body of Christ, and each one of you is a separate and necessary part of it. . . Is everyone an apostle? Of course not. Is everyone a preacher? No. Are all teachers? Does everyone have the power to do miracles? Can everyone heal the sick? Of course not. Does God give all of us the ability to speak in languages we’ve never learned? Can just anyone understand and translate what those are saying who have that gift of foreign speech? No, but try your best to have the more important of these gifts.”

-1 Corinthians 12:27, 29-31 TLB

- Our human nature wants us to be noticed
- We want to be out front, to be like so and so
- God thinks otherwise... “I made you to be able to do this or that!”

3. Don’t confuse roles with gifts.

- Gifts are given to all of us and are unique in our lives
- Roles can be filled by anyone (a greeter, PTA helper, cooking hotdogs with the Lions Club at Trunk or Treat!)
- Your gift may help you in your role

- We should strive, here at FCOG, to have an environment that allows people to discover their gifts, calling and roles

This Week:

I will get to know my gifts, encourage others to serve, and jump into my serving role at church.