

# The Christian Arsenal

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**SHAPED FOR SERVING GOD**  
**The 4<sup>th</sup> Purpose of Your Life**  
**Revisiting our Purposes**

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**Part 5 of 7**

*"We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Eph. 2:10 (NIV)*

You were made to make a contribution, not just to consume.

What matters is not the duration of your life, but the donation of your life.

**We are:**     created to serve  
                  saved to serve  
                  gifted to serve  
                  shaped to serve  
                  commanded to serve

*"Your hands shaped me and made me." Job 10:8 (NIV)*

**God uses 5 things to shape you:**

**S** piritual Gifts  
**H** earth  
**A** bilities  
**P** ersonality  
**E** xperiences

*"Each one should use whatever gift he's received to serve others." 1 Pet. 4:10 (NIV)*

**MY 4<sup>th</sup> PURPOSE IS TO SERVE GOD BY SERVING OTHERS**

The only way you can serve God is by serving others. The Bible has a word for this, it's called ministry.

The Bible says every believer is a minister.

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Jesus: “Your attitude must be like My Own, for I did not come to be served, but to serve...” Matt. 20:28 (LB)

Your SHAPE determines your ministry, but your attitude determines your maturity.

## LEARNING TO SERVE LIKE JESUS

### 1. SERVING LIKE JESUS MEANS BEING AVAILABLE.

“Two blind men... shouted, ‘Lord, have mercy on us!’ ... Jesus stopped and called them. ‘What do you want Me to do for you?’ He asked.” Matt. 20:30-32 (NIV)

If you want to be used by God and to serve God, you must be willing to be interrupted.

“Never tell your neighbors to wait until tomorrow if you can help them now.” Pr. 3:28 (TEV)

John Wesley’s motto:

“Do all the good you can by all the means you can by all the ways you can in all the places you can at all the times you can to all the people you can.

## THREE COMMON BARRIERS

### 1<sup>st</sup> Barrier: SELF-CENTEREDNESS

“Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand.” Phil. 2:4 (MSG)

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Barrier: PERFECTIONISM

“If you wait for perfect conditions, you’ll never get anything done.” Eccl. 11:4 (NLT)

The good enough principle: it doesn’t have to be perfect for God to bless it.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Barrier: MATERIALISM

“No servant can serve two masters... You cannot serve both God and money.” Lk. 16:13 (NIV)

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The most important decision you're going to have to make in life once you become a believer is "Am I going to be a kingdom-builder or am I going to be a wealth-builder?"

You will not take your wealth to Heaven with you, but you will take your character.

## 2. SERVING LIKE JESUS MEANS BEING GRATEFUL.

*"Jesus looked up and said, 'Father, I thank you that you have heard Me. I knew that you always hear Me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here...'" John 11:41-42 (NIV)*

*"Serve the Lord with gladness." Ps. 100:2 (KJV)*

Why do we serve God, not with a sense of duty, but with a sense of delight? Not out of a sense of obligation, but a sense of the great opportunity that He's given to us? Because He's given life to us through Jesus Christ – He SAVED us!

*"It is He who saved us and chose us for His holy work not because we deserved it but because that was His plan..." 2 Tim. 1:9 (LB)*

## TWO BARRIERS

### 1<sup>st</sup> Barrier: COMPARING & CRITICIZING

*"Who are you to criticize someone else's servant? The Lord will determine whether His servant has been successful." Rom. 14:4 (GW)*

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Barrier: WRONG MOTIVATIONS

*"When you do good deeds, don't try to show off. If you do, you won't get a reward from your Father in heaven." Matt. 6:1 (CEV)*

Self-promotion and servant hood don't mix.

## 3. SERVING LIKE JESUS MEANS BEING FAITHFUL.

*"I have brought You glory on earth by completing the work You gave me to do." John 17:4 (NIV)*

You may retire from your job someday, but you're never retiring from ministry.

*"The one thing required of servants is that they be faithful..." 1 Cor. 4:2 (TEV)*

*"Throw yourselves into the work of the Master, confident that nothing you do for Him is a waste of time or effort." 1 Cor. 15:58 (MSG)*

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Now if you're going to learn to be a servant of God you must learn the difference between significance and prominence.

Don't mistake anonymous with insignificant.

Real servants do every task as if it matters.

Have you ever wondered why you're here at Warren Community Church? I'll tell you why. You're here at W.C.C. because God knew you had something to give back. He did not bring you here to sit, soak, and enjoy, but to serve.

When you boil it all down, you can do two things with your life ... you can waste it or you can invest it.

*"He will not forget how hard you have worked for Him and how you have shown your love to Him by caring for other Christians." Heb. 6:10 (NLT)*

*"Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things so; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!" Matt. 25:21 (NIV)*

Elvis' only Grammy Award out of 250 million albums sold was a song "He Touched Me"

After the lightning and thunder,  
After the last bell has rung,  
I want to bow down before Jesus  
And hear Him say "Well done, my son"  
He is my reason for living,  
He is my King of Kings  
I long to be in His possession  
He is my everything.

**QUESTION:** Is God going to be able to say "Well done" to you?

Napoleon: In reference to China said, "There lies a sleeping giant. If it ever wakes up it will shake the world."

Every weekend I look at the W.C.C. family and I say, "There is a sleeping giant."

I make no apology in saying to you that the most important thing you'll ever do with your life is serving God in ministry.