



From the Bishop's Heart

Called to Serve

July 2016

In his inaugural address, the late President John F. Kennedy challenged Americans to “Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country.” It seem appropriate to challenge the believer to ask not what the church can do for them but rather what can they do for the church. Too often people establish their expectations of the church based on what they believe the church should offer them.

The biblical principle is clear. “Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all.” This is not easy principle to accept. Our natural, human desire says, “Stand up for your rights; use whatever clout you have to get an edge. If you don’t look out for ‘number one’ who else will?”

God requires that, whatever be the gifts which each has received, you must use them for one another benefit, as good stewards of God’s many-sided kindness. Some Christians have the idea that they do not have anything to offer others or that spiritual gifts are only given to certain people. When God gives us these gifts He did not mean them to be for our own benefits (gain more money or better reputation, etc.) but to use them to build up the body of Christ and to bring others to God’s kingdom.

When the gifts that God has given are not used for kingdom building and members of the church fail to cooperate, to give, and to share, they drain the church resources, energy, and do not allow the church to grow spiritually.

It is my prayer that we act as one body of Christ and become fully active members and recognize our gifts from the Holy Spirit and develop them according to the need of the church and place them all to use for God’s glory.

The Mater’s Pastor,
Bishop Dr. William M. & Lady Patricia J. Polley