

A SERVICE VETERAN **I Corinthians 16:15-18**

Let us learn about service from a veteran like Stephanas and his family.

I. THEIR CHARACTERISTICS (15)

A. COMMITMENT: They have devoted themselves

1. Voluntary Service
 - They did this of their own accord
2. Decisive Action
 - They made a decision and followed through with it - See Joshua 24:15
3. Mature Response
 - A mark of Christian maturity is participation in service

B. CONCERN: Ministry to the saints

1. Providing Aid
 - Seeing a need and addressing it - Note Rom. 12:13 and I John 3:18
2. Focused on Believers
 - Seeking to serve the saints - Consider Galatians 6:10

C. COOPERATION: Stephanas' household served

1. These were family projects
2. Here's what we can do together - See I Corinthians 3:9

II. THEIR RECOGNITION

A. KNOW THEM (15)

1. Be acquainted with what they do
 - Observe Paul's lists in Rom. 16:3-15 and Col. 4:7-14
2. Recognize them as helpful servants who may need helpers

B. SUBMIT TO THEM (16)

1. Look to them with respect
2. Let this kind influence and inspire you
3. Follow their lead: Servants like this are worthy examples

C. ACKNOWLEDGE THEM (18)

1. They are worthy of public recognition and admiration
2. Show appreciation and gratitude for their service

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III. THE OBSTACLES

- What will keep us from service like this?

A. WEARINESS - Galatians 6:9

- Having served for years without recognition or assistance

B. LONLINESS - I Kings 19:14-18

- Discouraged because we feel we're the only one really working here

C. FEAR - II Timothy 1:7

1. Fear of failure: What if I volunteer and then find out I'm not any good at it?

2. Fear of expectations: If I commit to something everyone will expect me to follow through with it

D. SELFISHNESS - Luke 9:57-62

- I'd serve but I have too much to do (for myself!)

E. APATHY - Revelation 3:1-2

- It's not my problem ... someone else can deal with it or serve in that capacity.

F. DISCONNECT - Hebrews 10:23-25

- Failing to assemble on any regular basis so that you are unaware of the needs or opportunities within the church body and how you might meet them.

CONCLUSION:

Are you a service veteran?

Are you AWOL when it comes to serving in our church?

Will you serve any FRBC saints this week?

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