

# This Week's **IMPACT**

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church – Peru, Indiana

August 27, 2023

## What Does it Mean to “Serve” as a Christian?

To “serve” as a Christian means to do something for someone else without expecting anything else in return. It’s focusing more on the needs of others than your own needs. It’s having a heart for Jesus to be like Jesus in the lives of other people – to be kind, caring, trustworthy, giving, loving, understanding, patient and being aware of what your friends, classmates, family and co-workers are going through in their lives. It’s choosing to help when and where you can, in whatever way you can. It’s selfless.

## We Don’t “Serve” to Draw Attention to Ourselves

In Matthew 6:1 Jesus tells us: *“Be careful not to practice your righteousness (good deeds) in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.”* Rather, do your good deeds without feeling the need to be noticed for doing them.



## Which is Easier... Serving or Being Served?

There are people who view Christianity like a recreational volleyball game. You’re persuaded to play by being promised a reward for participating well. You get into position (*church*), familiarize yourself with the rules (*Bible*), communicate (*pray*), and you try to be ready. Sometimes you see your fellow team members struggle and fall, but you encourage them to get back up and try again. Everybody gets a chance to serve, but some are better at serving than others. It seems like for some people serving is easy, while for others it’s quite a challenge. Then, there’s the other side of the net. On that side, you’re just waiting for the ball to come to you. There’s really no effort – just waiting and watching and expecting.

**Christianity is not about just “playing the game” in order to get a reward.** It’s about a personal relationship with Jesus Christ... accepting God’s gift of salvation through Jesus and living life through Him and for Him. A real spiritual union takes place in your life when you trust Jesus Christ by faith to come into your heart. As a result, you will have a desire to serve rather than just be served. Your focus will shift from what you want (or expect) to come your way, to what it is that you may give or offer to someone else. **Serving others results in greater selflessness and less selfishness.**

## Question

**Which do you experience more in your life, serving or being served?**

Your answer will show you whether you focus on the needs of others more often than your own needs.

Today, you tried to play volleyball with a flat ball. It was created to be filled with air so that it could fulfill its purpose and be most effective. As Christians, we too are created with a purpose. French physicist mathematician and Catholic writer Blaise Pascal wrote: *“There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of each man which cannot be satisfied by any created thing, but only by God the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ.”* We can only find true meaning and purpose when we let God fill our lives to accomplish His will here on earth. Ephesians 2:10 tells us, **“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”**

The easiest way to find your purpose is to yield to God. What is an area of your life that God has been speaking to you about yielding to Him? Ask God to use you this week in a way that glorifies Him and gives you a clearer understanding of His purpose for your life.

