

The Truth About Service - 1 Tim 1: 11-14

Intro - Not a ministry - Not an eccles. title
but a term denoting service in general -
Varied service

I. It is an Expression of God's Mercy -

- 1- 2 v. 16 - Mercy bringing Salvation
- 2 v. 13 - Mercy bringing Service - God's mercy is
letting Paul who was a B, P. + G - having a
share in serving His Lord
- 2- In ancient days, Spartans who won victory
at Olympic games - reward: stand beside King in
battle - Story of Spartan wrestler - offered a
tribute to lose - refused, after hard struggle, won.
"Now what have you ~~to~~ got out of this?" -
"I have won the privilege of standing in front
of my King in battle." His reward was
Service

3- John Newton = our mantle: "Thou shalt
remember that Thou wast a bondman in the
hand of Egypt & the Lord Thy God redeemed Thee."
Composed his own epitaph: "John Newton,
Clerk, once an Infidel & Libertine, a Servant
of Slaves in Africa, was by the Mercy of our
Lord & Savior Jesus Christ, Preserved,
Restored, Pardoned & Appointed to Preach
the Faith he had so long labored to
destroy."

II - an Egyptian Fellowship -

- The higher reaches of the X in life cannot be attained in isolation
- The body of X - an organism in which each member contributes to the growth of the whole by receiving & passing on the life drawn from X the Head.

- 1 - Properly adjusted to Head
- 2 - Freely evolutionary to the Body 5:19
- 3 - Truthfully dealing on love

Highest reaches ^{can be} attained in isolation = yet usually parachurch groups claim can grow more here than in church.

v. 14 = Then the years I've noticed those who like children, tossed to & fro never ~~had~~ have a high regard for unity & membership of church - see some some spiritual life outside the church.

III - Enlightened Behavior, & Adjustment

v. 15 = Holding to the Truth in love = steadfast - what the unity teaches we are to adhere to - in love - not earthly v. 14

- Sincerity, openness, honesty = no deceit, no sham

"maintaining the truth"