

The Towel Fits You

Every member a minister, not just the ministered to.

THE QUALITY Using the gifts, talents, and time God has entrusted to us to build up the church and advance His Kingdom, recognizing that every member is called to minister, not just be ministered to.

THE BIG IDEA

Jesus took the towel because He knew who He was. God placed you in the body so you would have a towel to take. Love decides whether it means anything at all. **Serving is not what you do once you feel secure enough. It is what settled people are free to do.**

01. Take the Towel John 13:1-5

Jesus knelt because three things were already settled.

Luke 22:24	They argued about who was greatest at this very meal. The basin was avoided, not missed.
John 13:4-5	Six verbs in two verses. Foot washing was the lowest slave's job in the house.
John 13:4, 12	τίθημι lay down, λαμβάνω take up. The pair He uses of His life in John 10:17-18.
Philippians 2:7-8	Slave form and death on a cross, one sentence, no seam. Verse 5 makes it imitative.
John 13:3	His authority, His origin, His destination. Nothing to prove, nothing to protect.

Settled people can kneel. Insecure people can only perform.

THIS WEEK Name your basin. Find the job in front of you nobody wants, settle the three as you reach for it, and take it once this week before anyone asks.

02. Take Your Place 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

God put you in this body on purpose, and He used the same verb.

1 Cor 12:15-16	The first lie, from the one who feels small. I am not a hand, so I do not belong.
1 Cor 12:21	The second lie, from the one who feels essential. I do not need you.
1 Cor 12:18	ἔθετο, from tithēmi. He laid it down, God laid you in. Just as He wanted.
1 Cor 12:22	ἀναγκάα, indispensable. Not tolerated. Load bearing.
1 Cor 12:24-25	Greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so there would be no division.

Your place is an assignment, not a leftover. You are load bearing.

THIS WEEK Find out where you fit. Go to gatewaychurchmonroe.com, click Starting Point, then Next Steps, and work through Where Do I Fit?

NOTES

03. Take the Higher Way 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

Paul runs three impressive resumes and subtracts love from each one.

1 Cor 12:31	The most excellent way. ὁδός (hodos) is a road. Love is not a better feeling to have while serving, it is a different road to walk.
1 Cor 13:1	Tongues of men and of angels, minus love. Not lesser music. Noise.
1 Cor 13:2	Prophecy, all knowledge, mountain moving faith, minus love. I am nothing.
1 Cor 13:3	Everything I own given away, my body handed over, minus love. I gain nothing.
1 Cor 13:5	Love keeps no record of wrongs. Accounting language. Love does not run a ledger.

Notice the descent. First what I produce is worthless, then what I am is nothing, then what I get is nothing. Serving is not automatically holy.

THIS WEEK Run the zero test. Pick one thing you already serve in. Ask why you started and why you stay. Subtract love and see what is left. If what is left is resentment, say so out loud to someone.

THE CLOSE

John 13:12	He took up His garments and sat back down. The rehearsal was finished.
John 13:15	ὑπόδειγμα (hypodeigma), a pattern set down to be copied. Not admired. Copied.
John 13:17	Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them. Knowing is not the blessing. Doing is.

ALL OF IT IN THREE WORDS

KNEEL · BELONG · LOVE

REFLECT & RESPOND

- Which of the three did Jesus have settled that I do not: my authority, my origin, or my destination?
- Have I quietly decided I am not needed here, and what was I comparing myself to when I decided it?
- If I subtract love from the thing I serve in most, what is actually left?

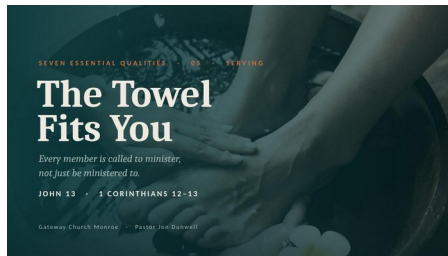
NOTES

The towel fits you. Go pick it up.

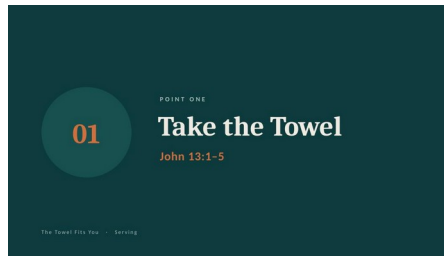
All scripture NIV.

GATEWAY CHURCH MONROE

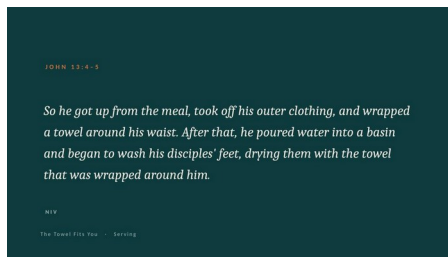
Two identical services, 9:00 AM and 5:30 PM · linktr.ee/GatewayChurchMonroe
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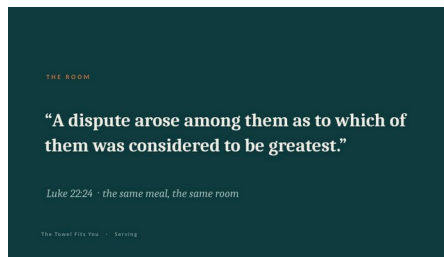
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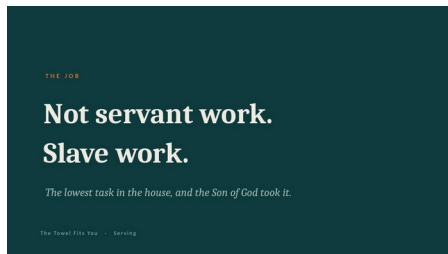
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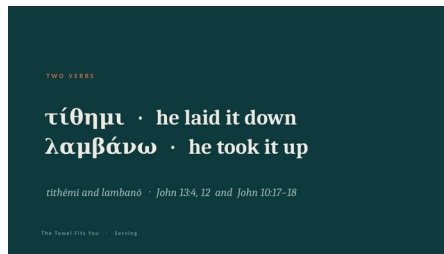
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THE POINT

Jesus practiced the cross on a towel before He carried it on a hill.

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PHILIPPIANS 2:7-8

Rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross!

NIV

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SO WHAT HAD TO DIE

Cross bearing means dying to the self that keeps score.

Whoever wants to be my disciple must take up their cross daily. · Luke 9:23

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JOHN 15:1

Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God.

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WHAT HAD TO BE SETTLED FIRST

HIS AUTHORITY	All things were under His power.
HIS ORIGIN	He had come from God.
HIS DESTINATION	He was returning to God.

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SO

**Settled people can kneel.
Insecure people can only perform.**

Nothing to prove. Nothing to protect. Hands free.

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APPLICATION · POINT ONE

Name your basin.

- 1 Find the job in front of you nobody wants.
- 2 Settle the three before you reach for it.
- 3 Take it once this week, before anyone asks.



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POINT TWO

02 Take Your Place

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

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1 CORINTHIANS 12:12, 14

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ... Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

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THE FIRST LIE

“Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body.”

The foot and the ear · 1 Corinthians 12:15-16

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THE SECOND LIE

“I don’t need you!”

The eye to the hand, the head to the feet · 1 Corinthians 12:21

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ONE VERB

ἔθετο · he placed you
καθὼς ἠθέλησεν · just as he wanted

etheto and kathos êthelēsen · 1 Corinthians 12:18

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THE POINT

Your place is an assignment, not a leftover.

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1 CORINTHIANS 12:22, 24-25

On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable... But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.

NIV

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WHAT GOD ALREADY SETTLED ABOUT YOU

HE CHOSE	He picked the part you would be.
HE ARRANGED	He built the body to need it.
HE HONORED	He honors what gets overlooked.

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You are not extra. You are load bearing.

Chosen for the part. Placed on purpose. Necessary to the whole.

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APPLICATION · POINT TWO

Find out where you fit.

- 1 Go to gatewaychurch.com
- 2 Click Starting Point
- 3 Click Next Steps
- 4 Work through Where Do I Fit?



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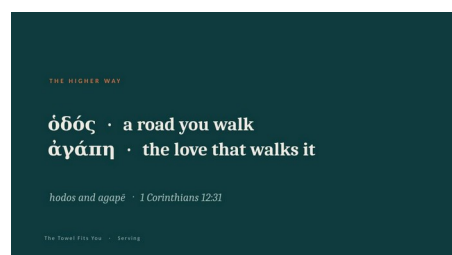
POINT THREE

03 Take the Higher Way

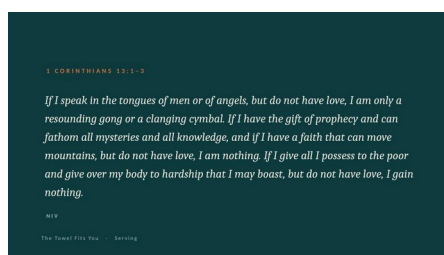
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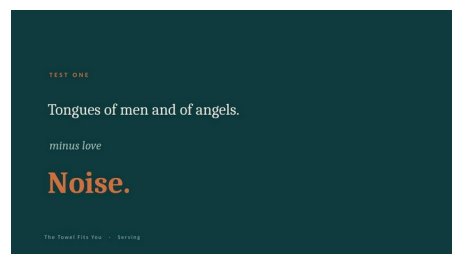
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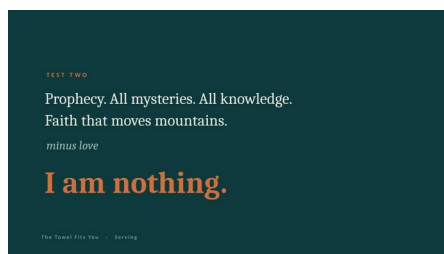
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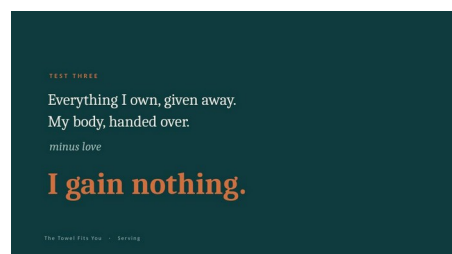
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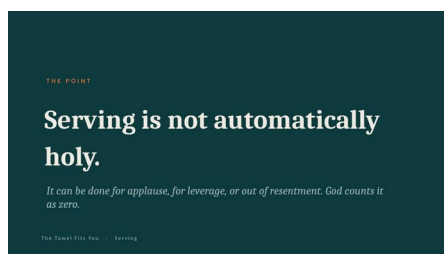
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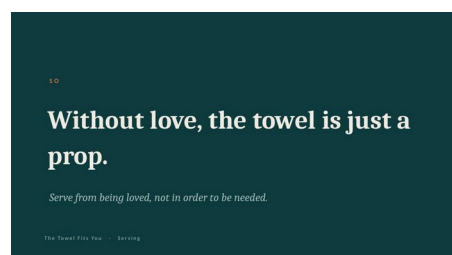
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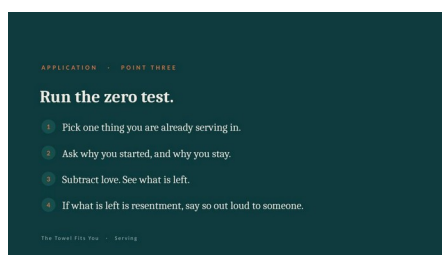
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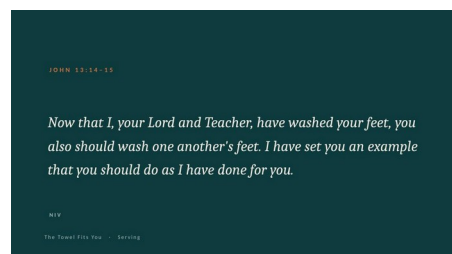
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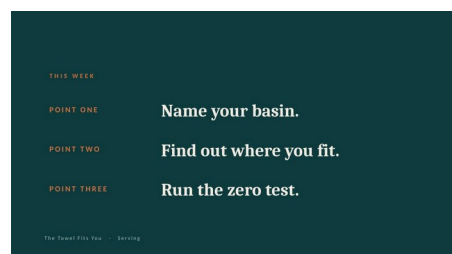
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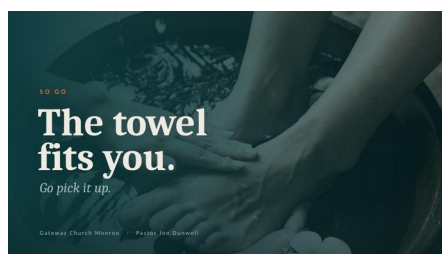
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