



The Year of H.O.P.E.

HEALING. OUTREACH. PRAISE & WORSHIP. EMPOWERMENT

November 15, 2016

I AM A CHURCH MEMBER:

Third Pledge: I Will Not Let My Church Be About My Preferences and Desires

Introduction: Our church's identity should be revealed in our church's activity. However, most churches are filled with people who believe their *wish* for the church is more important than the *work* of the church.

“The church has to do something in order to be something.”

- Hilary J. Scarsella, Ph.D Candidate at Vanderbilt University Divinity School

The word servant appears **57 times** in the New Testament.

The word serve appears **58 times** in the New Testament.

I. Get Out of Your Feelings: The Church Doesn't Belong to Us **Matthew 16:13-18**

II. Comprehend the Servant Model **Mark 9:35**

a. Servanthood is a **Process** **Ephesians 3:7**

b. Servanthood has a **Purpose** **Ephesians 3: 8-10**

III. A Sad Survey: How Churches Look When They Become “Self-Centered”

1. There are worship wars
2. Prolonged Senseless Meetings
3. Focused on Facilities
4. Program- Driven rather than Purpose-Driven
5. Inwardly Focused Budget
6. Unreasonable demands for Pastoral Care
7. Attitudes of entitlement
8. More upset about changes than making disciples
9. A lot of Anger and Hostility
10. Evangelistic apathy

THE HOUSE OF HOPE MACON

IV. **Developing** the Mind of Christ

Philippians 2:3-11

- Jesus **gave up** position
- Jesus **emptied** himself
- Jesus **Humbled** himself
- Jesus **became** Obedient
- God **highly exalted** him

Philippians 2:6
Philippians 2:7
Philippians 2:8
Philippians 2:8
Philippians 2:9-11

“What you’re willing to give up, God is able to give back.” -RWS

“The best way to Build a Church is to Behave like Christ.”- RWS

The Third Pledge

I am a church member.

I will not let my church be about my preferences and desires. That is self-serving. I am a member in this church to serve others and to serve Christ. My Savior went to a cross for me. I can deal with any inconveniences and matters that just aren't my preference or style.

Sign and Date