



Servant's Corner

January 2015

Motive Matters

By Rich Henderson, Love INC Director

When it comes to service, motive matters. I heard that a reporter once followed Mother Teresa as she ministered to her diseased and dying patients. "Mother Teresa," the reporter said, "I wouldn't do that for a million dollars." Her response? "I wouldn't do this for a million dollars either." Contrast this to a high school student who performs an act of service in order to get the required number of "community service" hours. If there is any question in your mind of whether the motive behind the service matters, ask the *recipients*. They can tell the difference.

There are a host of things that can motivate a person to serve: An unhealthy compulsion to rescue people from their poor decisions, a desire to look good in the eyes of others, a desire to put others in debt to us by our service to them, or a desire to feel better about ourselves. At some point these deficient motives will evidence themselves in the **quality** and **effect** of the service rendered.

So, what should motivate Christians to serve? The Apostle Paul gave this answer, "*For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, that they who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf*". (2 Corinthians 5:14-15 NASB). Our motive for serving is that the Holy Spirit is reproducing the character of Jesus in us. Christ's love flowing through us produces self-sacrificial service that glorifies God and is beneficial to others. **Next time, before you serve, check your heart. Motive matters.**



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