

**Temple of Restoration
Church Of God In Christ**

excellence

**Set the standard for
and find your place in the
Ministry**



People-Pleaser or Servant of Christ

TOP NEEDS

Ministry Interest Form

PEOPLE-PLEASER OR SERVANT OF CHRIST

Galatians 1:10

Please consider one or two areas where you would be willing to serve faithfully in your church--fully committed to leadership and the God-given vision of Temple of Restoration Church Of God In Christ. This Ministry TOP NEEDS packet includes brief descriptions of ministries with an attached ministry interest form. As a member, where would YOU be willing to serve Christ at the Temple of Restoration?

We need you to serve as a Servant of Christ, not a people-pleaser. You are not likely to people-please with the person who delivers your mail or bags your groceries. But you might be tempted to people-please around your teacher, coach, boss, spouse, or anyone you think has a little influence or something you don't have.

People-Pleasers Cave under Pressure from Influential People

Paul understood the pressure of influential people and how they tempt you to compromise your gospel-rooted principles. In fact, in Galatians 2, he describes a time when it would have been very easy for him to fudge his convictions to win the approval of influential people.

Now, in situations like this, people-pleasers give in; they cave under the pressure; they'd rather compromise their biblical convictions than have the influential people in their lives look at them with disapproval. Perhaps you've found yourself in a similar situation recently, maybe even this week, at work or at school, at church or regarding the church, talking with a friend between classes or interacting with your supervisor over a project.

People-pleasers yield to pressure, but not so servants of Christ, like Paul. They stand on their ground. To those wielding great pressure to compromise, Paul says, "To them, we did not yield in submission even for a moment so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you" (2:5). No doubt, this was a costly move for Paul; surely, he earned the disapproval of those who were thought influential in Jerusalem. But he knew his compromise at this point would have been even more costly for the Galatians because it would have meant a compromise of the gospel's truth, which would have meant serving himself and not them with his actions.

People-Pleasers Ignore Harmful Hypocrisy

But that's not all. People-pleasers don't make good servants of Christ because people-pleasers ignore harmful hypocrisy. Within the Christian community, few things are as corrosive as hypocrisy. *When a Christian has a habit of saying one thing and doing another or denying with his life what he affirms with his lips, he can do all sorts of damage to that community.* It is the responsibility of the servants of Christ within that community to lovingly confront that person in his or her hypocrisy, lest that person's hypocrisy spread like gangrene and harm others.

But people-pleasers don't do confrontation, even loving confrontation of harmful hypocrisy. Instead, they prefer to ignore it, brush it under the carpet, and hope it will disappear. This is

because people-pleasers know, as we all do that confronting someone risks them being displeased with you rather than pleased. People-pleasers are acutely aware of this danger and, therefore, steer clear of ever confronting anyone over anything, even when they know it's to their own detriment or the detriment of others.

I imagine the Apostle Paul was at least tempted to ignore the harmful hypocrisy he saw developing in his home church in Antioch. As we learn from Galatians 2:11-14 when the Apostle Peter visited, he and the other Jews freely ate with Gentiles until a few important individuals from Jerusalem came to town touting different convictions. At this point, Peter pulled back. "For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came, he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party" (2:12). Yet notice how Peter's one act of hypocrisy spreads like gangrene and infects the whole church: "And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy" (2:13). Every one of them, led astray by Peter's one act of hypocrisy. That's harmful hypocrisy, the kind that undermines a whole church.

Everyone was led astray except the converted Pharisee from Tarsus, the Apostle Paul. He didn't ignore or overlook anyone's hypocrisy, not Peter's. Instead, he called him on it. Paul confronted Peter's harmful hypocrisy personally and publicly because of the public nature and consequences of Peter's treachery. "But when I saw that their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, 'If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?'" (2:14).

But how tempting it would have been for Paul to paper over his differences with Peter! How convenient for him to call this a little indiscretion and let it slide. How nice it would have been for Paul not to stick his neck on the line or risk alienating himself from the entire church. Yet how much of a people-pleaser would he have been, and not a servant of Christ, if he would have ignored Peter's harmful hypocrisy?

Friends, we need to realize that the failure to confront harmful hypocrisy within the body of Christ is one reason churches remain spiritually anemic and weak. Churches can be breeding grounds for people-pleasers; we might call them by a different name, like 'passive aggressive.'

But, at the root, it is people-pleasing that leads to all kinds of dysfunctions, double standards, failures of leadership, and even hypocrisy itself. Yet, instead of loving confrontation of harmful hypocrisy, we ignore it and then gossip about it with a spouse or a friend. Some of you have never confronted harmful hypocrisy. And the reason is not because you didn't see it; it was right before you. It was because you didn't want to harm yourself, your own reputation, or your approval rating in the eyes of others. Though you saw the sin, you didn't say anything. You let harmful hypocrisy slide, and others were harmed by it or had to clean up after you. That's cowardly, not Christ-like, playing the people-pleaser, not being a servant of Christ.

People-Pleasers Hide from the Shame of The Cross

There is a third reason why people-pleasers don't make good servants of Christ. It's because people-pleasers hide from the shame of the cross. No one likes to be embarrassed, least of all people-pleasers. It's death to a people-pleaser to be publically exposed or humiliated. But to be a servant of Christ, you must be willing to take up your cross and follow Jesus. Yet the cross, friends, is not just a method of execution; it is a tool of humiliation as well.

No one understood the shame of bearing the cross better than the Apostle Paul. No one suffered more for serving Christ or was more shamefully treated than him. As Christ's servant, Paul insisted upon a circumcision-free gospel for Gentiles. And this infuriated some of his Jewish kinsmen, who expressed frustration on Paul. So, he suffered—lots. No doubt, this explains his closing challenge to the Galatians: “From now on let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus” (6:17).

There were, however, others who tried to sever the relationship between the cross of Christ and being a servant of Christ. In fact, they were the ones stirring up trouble in the churches in Galatia. So, in the closing portion of the letter, Paul talks with the Galatians about them, revealing their real motivation for promoting circumcision. “It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh who would force you to be circumcised, and only so that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ” (6:12). Their agenda is a people-pleasers agenda: to keep up appearances and avoid anything difficult or humiliating. And they've come to realize that the only way they're going to be able to do that is by forcing these Gentiles to get circumcised. So, they're advocating for the Galatians to lose their foreskin so that they can save their own skin and not be persecuted by their fellow Jews.

Of course, Paul understands how this works. He knows he, too, could make his life much easier if he only fudges a little on the cross of Christ. He knows his persecution would quickly vanish if he just quietly removed the offense of the cross (cf. 5:11). But as a servant of Christ, he won't do it. Indeed, he can't do it. In fact, just the opposite; he will not run from the shame of the cross but boast in it: “But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world” (6:14).

Fighting the People-Pleaser Within You

There is a people-pleaser in all of us, one that needs continual crucifixion if we are going to become the servants of Christ that God would want us to be. But how do you fight and, indeed, kill the people-pleaser in your own heart? The same way you fight against any remaining sin in your life is by fighting the fight of faith and trusting in all that God is for you in Christ.

So, if you're going to gain victory in your battle against people-pleasing, you must first embrace the fact that Jesus Christ has taken every judgment against you and nailed it to his cross. And there they remain, forever!

**Temple of Restoration
Church Of God In Christ
List of Ministry Opportunities**

TOP NEEDS

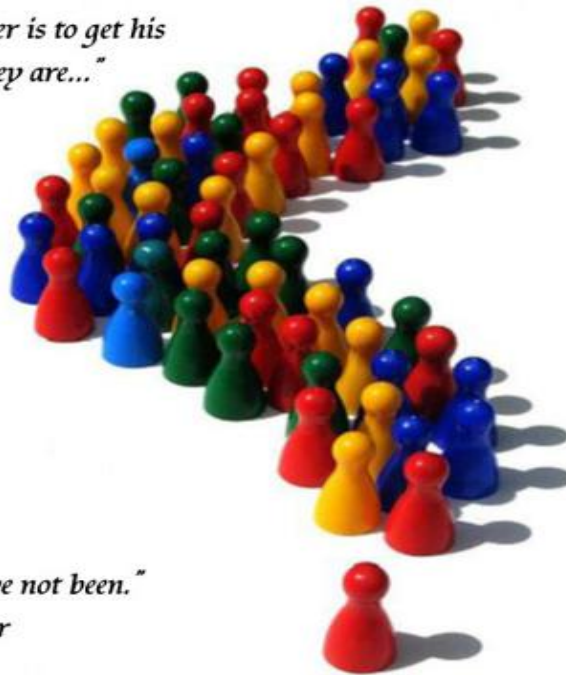
- **Pastoral Partners Program** is a flexible care network designed to provide coordinated pastoral care and connection for every congregation member.
- **The New Members Ministry is committed to quickly assimilating all new members into the life and work of the** Temple of Restoration.
- **The Adjutancy Program** provides worship and administrative assistance in the church's ordinances as instituted by Christ, as well as any other sacred rituals.
- **Ambassadors for Christ** are men who perform duties around the church on Sunday and assist in lobby greetings.
- **The men's ministry coordinates activities for men of the Temple of Restoration, seeking to lead men into a personal, dynamic relationship with Christ and help them become strong and courageous spiritual leaders in their families, church, and community.**
- **Church Council** -- the governing body of the congregation on ministries.
- **Children's Ministry** provides special services for children under the age of 12 years.
- **The Youth Ministry** provides special services to middle and high school students.
- **Counseling** helps indoctrinate individuals to the Christian faith and its prevailing principles, developing spiritually mature and motivated disciples.
- **Deaconess** assists in providing the ordinances, other sacred services, and pastoral care as needed.
- **Deacons** are men filled with the Spirit appointed by the Pastor, as shown in Acts 6: 1-6. Their responsibilities include laymen's spiritual development and growth, a general support group for the Pastor, and handling church finances.
- **The Family Ministry** helps develop and strengthen healthy families, including single and married couples.
- **Hospitality Guild** is responsible for serving bereaved families and acts as hostesses, helping the ministry of welcome.

- **Ministers and Missionaries Alliance** consists of elders, evangelist missionaries, ministers, and aspiring missionaries who meet with the pastor and each other to discuss ways to be more effective in ministry.
- **Music Ministry** provides opportunities for members to take their proper place in the total church program through participation in its music, BOTH instrumental and vocal.
- **The Nursery Ministry** leads child-care programming, equipment, and child-care facilities.
- **The Prayer Ministry coordinates** efforts to make prayer a part of everything we do.
- **Advertising and Communications** promote the Temple of Restoration and assist various ministries in advertising their activities or services to the Greater Little Rock area. Its function is to communicate through every means possible.
- **Facilities Management** provides leadership for the maintenance and upkeep of all things pertaining to our building and grounds.
- **The Greeters Ministry** manages our information booth, provides printed information for members and visitors, and answers the telephone during our assemblies and classes when requested. Greeters are leaders in the Ministry of Welcome.
- **Membership and Support Services** provide clerical and other office assistance to the congregation.
- **Parking and Security** provide leadership in traffic flow on our property and adequate security during services and classes.
- **Pastor's Aid** provides special comfort and support to the Pastor. Members discuss methods of providing this support and raise funds to support the pastoral objectives.
- **The Media and Technology Ministry** operates the public address system and coordinates recordings and media communications.
- **The Governing Board (Trustees)** are stewards for our physical plant, deal with legal and insurance-related issues, and are guarantors in mortgaging church properties.
- **Women's Ministry** provides opportunities for women to encourage one another through discipleship connections, impacting women's lives in the family, church, and community.
- **The Sunday School Department needs** additional leaders and teachers.
- **The Teaching Ministry** is open to all people called to teach. We need you!

- **EVANGELISM** is a mission strand for church wide development and impact.
- **DISCIPLESHIP** is a mission strand for church wide development and impact.
- **WORSHIP** is a mission strand for church wide development and impact.
- **SERVICE** is a mission strand for church wide development and impact.

GATHER, GROW, GIVE BACK, AND GO!

*"The task of the leader is to get his
people from where they are..."*



*"...to where they have not been."
- Henry Kissinger*

Ministry Interest Form

Use this form to indicate where and how you wish to participate in the ministry/ministries at the Temple of Restoration Church Of God In Christ. We are interested in helping you become a part of a ministry and faithfully and joyfully serve the Lord in a position. Please refer to the ministry opportunities guide for more information: P & R BOOKLET, "Privilege and Responsibility."

Choose your specific ministry from the Ministry Guide that is available to all members: _____

Note: If you have compassion for any other area of ministry not listed under Top Needs or in the P & R Booklet, please list the proposed new ministry:

What would you like to do?

Enter any comments, questions, or requests you may have below:

Tell us how to get in touch with you:

Name: _____

Complete Address: _____

E-Mail: _____

Telephone: _____

Best time to reach you: _____

Completion Date of This Form: _____

Return to the Church Office

Prerequisites for Ministry Leadership

Before assuming a leadership role in a ministry at Temple of Restoration, the aspiring leader must exemplify a lifestyle commensurate with the following discipleship stages: deliverance, development and deployment. Process of Deliverance moves a person from seeker to Believer through repentance. The Process of Development helps a Believer grow as a disciple through training and discipline. The Process of Deployment empowers a Disciple to make other disciples by equipping them for leadership.