

Zoe!
Part 2: Exceeding the Minimums!
Slide Notations

Why are you here? On the planet, in the Church, part of this group?

Answers: To find God... to share the gospel... to step up to service!

Not the “after salvation I am all excited” kind of service but “there has to be more for me to do” serving!

Serving... No longer operating on excitement and feelings... Have to come to discontentment... Not blaming “the church” for not offering more, because you are the church... Hunger and thirst for more and then agree to take the step, to pay the price...

Serve by design, for a lifetime!

“I am Yours!” and You won’t have a hard time finding me when You come! “I’ll be the one partaking of Divine Life, doing Your service for God and our Father!”

Foundational Text... HE, by His *divine power*, has *given to us* all things that pertain to life and godliness... by exceedingly Great and precious promises... that make it possible to become partakers of the *divine nature!*

2Peter 1.3,4

Life, as God has it, is offered to us for daily living... and the way only opens for the *humble!*

***Understanding* it’s “His way or no way” because it’s His life and He gets to set the standards!**

***First standards* are bowing to His Word, will, *concepts* and nature *and* humbling ourselves to love others more than self!**

Today... Is going to be a *little* different... *Little* bit of scripture... *part of the point!* “Those of full age (maturity) who by reason of experience should have their senses exercised to discern between good and evil!” **Heb 5.14**

Newly maturing: sensing “*disorder!*” Exercised: sensing *higher order!* **1C8**

The standards are written but we also need a conceptual view of divine life... SO... This week... Searched for a fitting outside *analogy* of the church!

The American Red Cross! No finer *life saving/enhancing organization* in the world... 30k employees, 1m volunteers... (3:97) Engaged in humanitarian, benevolence, disaster, wartime relief... Nothing like seeing those trucks pulling up when you’ve been knocked down!

Six main areas of humanitarian service! Disaster relief/Community services for the needy/
Communications for soldiers/Collection, processing blood products/Educational programs health and safety/International relief

The Red Cross... Has a place for most volunteers, “warm body” areas of service/disaster relief! Little instruction/warm heart you can serve food, hand out clothing/blankets... And staff/beneficiaries grateful!

But the Red Cross has it’s life-saving units/certified specialists! Life guarding, first aid, care-giving and international/armed services programs... With high standards for certification! ***They are experienced (expert) at what they do and they know what it takes to serve a level up!***

So What if... You wanted to serve the Red Cross in a greater capacity, *a level up*... But you decided you didn’t want to meet the standards... After all, you have served food during disaster relief on the beach... *Why do you*

have to meet swimming/ CPR standards for lifesaving? Only want the whistle/shirt and to swim for personal pleasure... someone else can save them... **We would naturally think that was absurd!**

That's exactly what it is when church people want to "step up" without meeting and exceeding the standards!
How can caring leaders stand down and let them by to get their hands on people in need... both can die!

The Standards... Are written for all to see... STATIC! ***They exist to sort out who is rebellious!*** Who are you who argues with God? R9.20 Who darkens My counsel? Job 38 ***To sort out legalists/the minimum-ists!*** Will do what the law demands! Pharisee. ***Show who is loving/candidate ZOE!***

If it *can* cause a weaker one to stumble I will abstain while the world exists! **1C8.13**

Incarnation 1! *Stop resisting the standards and get them out of the way/far behind!* I don't want minimum's/*more* than max! Can't get pumped/minimum weights! You rip/build at the point of fatigue! "Whatever hoops I have to jump thru to get to the prize; set them out there!" Special Forces don't train in children's playgrounds...

Incarnation 2! *The point of love for the brothers means we don't alter our view of the weak...* "If we could just get rid of them..." "Spectacles to world, angels and men!" ***The point of love means we don't alter their views to justify our actions...*** "You're just acting like a baby..." ***The point of love is: WE ALTER!*** Love refrains from what is right for self if it is wrong/hurtful to others (Zoe, virtue)

Incarnation 3! *In all this, the whole incarnation is that we live for Him, like Him, and like it!* He gave His life to give me mine..." "I would do anything for Jesus, even die..." "Do for your weak brother what you would do for ME!" THERE IS NO LOYALTY TO CHRIST, NO PARTAKING OF THE DIVINE LIFE, IF WE CANNOT LOVE WITH SELF-SACRIFICE! Sometimes there's a *rule* for that... sometimes there's only a *heart*...