

Accept No Substitutes

# Service: Out of the Comfort Zone

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*Suffering and sacrifice = part of serving God*

1. Did Paul know anything about suffering? Give some examples.

2. Why was Paul willing to go through so much?

Why do you think Christians in American are not generally known to be so devoted to each other?

3. In what aspects of our lives are we “stewards” (servants) for God?

How does a faithful servant handle each of these areas?

4. What mystery is Paul talking about in verses 26 and 27?

What does this mean?

Who has this mystery been divulged to?

5. What do you think it means to “warn” and “teach” believers?

Why are these two things necessary in a Christian’s life?

How much time did Paul spend in these areas (counseling and teaching others)?

6. Paul was a man with a mission. He was driven to give his life for one cause. What was this mission, according to verses 28 and 29, and what price was he willing to pay to achieve this end?

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**Colossians 1:24-29** <sup>24</sup>I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body ... <sup>25</sup>of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God, <sup>26</sup>the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. <sup>27</sup>To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. <sup>28</sup>Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup>To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.

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## Monday

According to Matthew 20:25-28, does Jesus want us to be “leaders” or “servants”? What is the difference between these two?

## Tuesday

Would others describe you as more of a manager/leader or servant/leader? What Biblical principles can you put into practice to help develop the spirit of a servant God wants each of us display?

## Wednesday

Are you willing to accept both teaching and admonition (“warning” or “counsel”) from others so your walk with Christ will be sharpened? Do you often put “conditions” on others before you take their advice seriously—if you like them, if they say it in the right way, etc.?

## Thursday

Suffering is a part of genuine service. How much suffering are you willing to endure before you give in to anger, frustration, defeat, hatred?

## Friday

Sacrifice is another integral part of serving others in love. If God wills, are you willing to sacrifice comfort, reputation, maybe a position in leadership, so you can better serve others?

## Saturday

“Help me, LORD, to serve You with pure motives and a willingness to both suffer and sacrifice to accomplish Your will...”

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