

You Are Essential!

The Pastor wore a t-shirt to the pulpit to deliver the sermon. His shirt said “Non-Essential.” The pastor explained it was a \$5 shirt he purchased at a discount store. After showing off the shirt the pastor covered up the word “non” with tape leaving only the word “essential” on display. Essential is a word that has been highlighted during the pandemic, especially at the beginning, when businesses considered to be non-essential were closed down.



The dictionary defines the word essential as either a noun or adjective that means “absolutely necessary” or “extremely important.” Businesses allowed to stay open through the entire pandemic are considered absolutely necessary or extremely important and the people who worked there were called essential workers.

God sees it differently. In His eyes we all are essential. We were created for a purpose. Don't think for a second that you are non-essential. We are absolutely necessary and extremely important because God has a role for each of us to play in our families, at work, in our churches and communities.

- We are parents with a mission of bringing up our children with Christian values.
- We are husbands and wives who have taken a vow to “love, cherish and honor “our spouse.
- We are volunteers in the community with an opportunity to be witnesses for Christ through our charitable efforts and to use God's gifts to help others.
- We have an opportunity to model Christ-like behavior in the workplace.
- We are Christians who Jesus Christ has called to spread the Good News of forgiveness and salvation because of God's love for all.

Jesus told His disciples: *He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.” (Mark 16:15).*

What could be a more essential role that believing in God and encouraging others in their faith? What could be more essential than helping others who are in need?

Our world is in chaos. The year 2020 is evidence of that, but in reality, the world has been in chaos during the entire history of mankind. Christian values are being ignored and symbols of the faith are being torn down physically or verbally by those who prefer a chaotic life, free from rules. People seek to control rather than acknowledge that God is in control. God is counting on each of us to do our part to bring as many people to Christ as we can. We are essential to God, and we are certainly essential to those whose destination is heaven *because of us.*

You are essential! God has gifted each of us so that we can use our abilities to grow the kingdom and to help others in need. *Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. (1 Peter 4:10)*

You don't have to save the world – just introduce people to Jesus and show them what living for Christ looks like. The Lord will do the rest. Partner with Jesus in this role. *“God will do this, for he is faithful to do what he says, and he has invited you into partnership with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.” (1 Corinthians 1:9).*

Be bold because you *are* essential! Trust God to lead you and be willing to go where you can make a difference in the world for Christ.

Question: In what ways can you utilize God's gifts and your opportunity to win souls for Christ?

Prayer: Heavenly Father. We thank you for placing us where we can make a difference by serving others and encouraging others in the faith. We are essential! Amen.