A  Serving within the Church.
❖ Those who had more shared with those who had nothing, so there were no people in need.
❖ After some time, distributing the goods among those in need became complicated, so the Church organized the distribution by appointing seven deacons.
❖ This sharing system was not followed in other Christian communities apart from the one in Jerusalem, but it laid the foundation of caring for those in need.

B  Serving outside the Church.
❖ The city of Joppa was greatly blessed by the ministry of a Christian woman, Dorcas.
❖ She made clothes for those in need. She also gave donations to satisfy the needs of the poor.
❖ She didn't help only the members of the Church, but anyone who needed her help.
❖ Selflessly helping others is not easy. A life of service requires self-sacrifice, but its impact in the lives of others may have eternal consequences.

C  Serving other congregations.
❖ The Council of Jerusalem asked Paul to teach the Gentiles some specific doctrines and to care for the poor (Galatians 2:10).
❖ When the church in Jerusalem suffered a famine, Paul suggested that the Gentile churches take up an offering to help them.
❖ The local churches must help to supply the needs of other congregations, not only their own needs.

D  Service as a lifestyle:
❖ Paul and service.
   — In Romans 12, Paul taught how we should live and relate to others as a "living sacrifice" (v. 1).
❖ James and service.
   — James was a brother of Jesus and one of the pillars of the Church (Galatians 2:9). The inhabitants of Jerusalem considered him a saint and a just man.
   — He taught us in his letter how to serve others.
   — Our service is a visible result of our faith (2:14-17).