



SERVANT LEADERSHIP

Servant leadership is essential for ministry because it is the prescribed method for leadership in the Kingdom of God.

DEFINITIONS

Servant

Secular: One that serves others.

Biblical: One who subjugates their personal ambitions, wants, and desires for the purpose of godly obedience in the building up of God's kingdom and the edification of the body of Christ, the church.

SERVING OPENS DOORS

Serving people by meeting their needs through genuine Christian love will open doors to share the gospel and make disciples for the kingdom of God. Jesus first served the multitudes, then He taught them. (see [Matthew 4:23-25](#) and [Ch. 5,6,7](#))

SERVING SETS AN EXAMPLE

Serving others shows them how they ought to live and serve those around them.

(see [1 Peter 2:21-25](#))



"But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us."

- 1 Th. 2:7-8

SERVING GIVES WEIGHT TO YOUR TEACHING

Serving others gives evidence of selfless motives. People who love selflessly will be welcomed by others and their teaching will be listened to because they stand nothing to gain from their audience. Serving others out of genuine love will serve as a living testimony to the power of the gospel message.

(see [1 Thessalonians 2:1-12](#))

SERVING IS LEADERSHIP IN ACTION



True leadership is seeing needs and stepping forward to meet them. Leadership without service is merely delegation. To truly lead, a leader must be willing to do everything that they call upon their followers to do.

"...whoever would be first among you must be slave of all."

"And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." - Mark 10:42-45

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JESUS LED HIS DISCIPLES BY SERVING THEM



HE LED THEM IN ACTIVE MINISTRY

Jesus didn't just teach His followers lofty head knowledge. He led them on a daily mission of doing ministry.
- [Luke 10:1-12](#)

HE LOVED THEM

Jesus loved His disciples. He invested in them, He taught them, He showed them what being holy looked like, and He ultimately gave His life up for their eternal salvation.
(see [John 15:9-17](#))

HE CALLED THEM TO BE LIKE HIMSELF

Jesus constantly pointed to His own example and instructed His disciples to be like Him. He lived the ultimate life of obedience for their benefit, and He commanded them to emulate Him.
(see [John 13:31-35](#))

"Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus."
- Acts 4:13

HE TAUGHT THEM TO THINK LIKE HE DID

Jesus transformed the thinking of His followers by continuously teaching them from the Scriptures, both the Old Testament and His own Words which were Scripture in the making. His Words, which have power, permeated their minds and forever changed their way of thinking. The Word of God is no less powerful today than it was when Jesus taught it and spoke it.
(see [Acts 14:13](#))

HE CHALLENGED THEM WHEN THEY WERE WRONG

Jesus corrected in love, but He always spoke the truth. He never allowed sin to go unchecked in the lives of His disciples.

By loving them He earned the right to speak truth into their lives. He served them, loved them, and invested in them, and they revered and respected His teaching and His rebuke.
(see [Matthew 17:14-20](#))

Jesus lived out His life as the ultimate example for them to follow!

"Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."
- Hebrews 4:14-16

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SERVANT LEADERS NEVER STOP

Servant leaders live lives that are defined by serving and investing in others. They are purpose driven individuals who are mission-focused and wholly selfless, seeing the completion of their mission as their reward and sacrificing everything to accomplish it.

THEY DISREGARD THEIR OWN AGENDA

Servant leaders lay aside their own plans, hopes, desires, and dreams to be obedient to God's will. (see [Luke 22:41-42](#) and [John 9:1-5](#))

LOVE DRIVEN

Servant leaders are driven by love. They see the love that Christ displayed for them by giving His life for their redemption, and it motivates them to give up everything for His mission. (see [Matthew 9:35-37](#))

SELFLESS

Servant leaders are selfless. They are focused on the mission of Christ because serving Him is their ultimate fulfillment. Their motivation is pleasing their Master and being successful in the mission He has given them. (see [Philippians 2:5-7](#))

"And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done."
- Luke 22:41-42

THEY SUFFER FOR THEIR FOLLOWERS

Servant leaders are willing to suffer for the benefit of their followers. Nowhere was this example more perfectly exemplified than in the sacrifice Jesus Christ on the cross. Jesus suffered an agonizing death to bring life to His followers. He was driven by His love for His Father and His followers to endure suffering for the benefit of His followers. (see [Romans 5:6-8](#))

THEY PURSUE THEIR MISSION WITH PURPOSE

Servant leaders are driven to complete their mission. For this reason, they live purpose driven lives which seek bring glory to God. Their purpose drives them to be busy with the work of the Kingdom as they strive to redeem the time given to the to accomplish their mission. (see [Matthew 16:21-23](#))

Their ultimate achievement is the satisfaction of their master!

"For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day." - John 6:38-40