

Christian Service Part 2: Servant Leadership

Three Priorities of Christian Service

1. Serve God
2. Serve Family
3. Serve Others

Jesus' Definition of Success

26 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. **27** And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—

Matthew 20:26, 27 (NKJV)

Jesus' Mission Statement

28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.



Matthew 20:28 *(NKJV)*

Servant Leadership

Servant Leadership emphasizes the leader's role as steward of the resources.

Robert Greenleaf, 1970



Servant Leadership - Bible

10 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

1 Peter 4:10 (NKJV)

Servant Leadership - Bible

42 But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. **43** Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. **44** And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. **45** For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

Worldly Leadership (First becomes First)

- Lords personal power and position over others (Serves self)
- Definition of a great leader – One who exercises authority over others

Biblical Leadership (First becomes Last)

- Serves others
- Definition of a great leader – One who exercises service toward others



Why Servant Leadership?

Luke 7:36-50 – Simon and his feast

- Simon, a proud Pharisee
- A woman (sinner) honors Jesus
- Jesus tells a story about a creditor (Himself) and two debtors (Simon & the woman)
- Who loved more?
- Who should we serve and honor?

Worldly Leadership

- Subordinates
- Restricted information
(need to know)
- People used
- Produce for the managers
- Motivation: Fear

Incarnational Leadership Model

14 You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. **15** No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. **16** You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. **17** These things I command you, that you love one another.

John 15: 14-17 (NKJV)

Biblical Leadership

- Friends
- Shared information
- People developed
- Produce own fruit
- Motivation: Love



Jesus the Servant

- He came not to show off his worth – He came to give us worth
- He came not to enrich Himself at our expense – He came impoverishing Himself to make us rich
- He came not to impress us with His glory - He came to share His glory with us

How Then Shall We Lead?

6 (Jesus) who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, **7** but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. **8** And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

Philippians 2: 6-8 *(NKJV)*

How Then Shall We Lead?

Move in the opposite direction of your natural tendencies

Lessons Jesus taught us about leadership:

- He would become the greatest -
became the least
- Whoever seeks to gain their life -
Must lose it in me
- Unless a seed falls into the ground and dies -
It cannot produce a harvest
- If someone seeks your coat -
Give him your cloak also
- The world says “love your friends” -
Jesus says “love your enemies”

The Mission

24 But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

Acts 20:24 (NKJV)

The mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is to proclaim to all peoples the everlasting gospel in the context of the Three Angels' messages of Rev. 14:6-12, leading them to accept Jesus as their personal Savior and to unite with His church, and nurturing them in preparation for His soon return.

Mission Statement – Seventh-day Adventist Church

The Mission & The Paraclete

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

Matthew 28:19,20 *(NKJV)*

Holy Spirit – Comforter, Counselor, Paraclete

- Sent to us to complete the work of Jesus, to fulfill the mission.
- Paraclete means “one who comes alongside”.
- Holy Spirit is our Heavenly mentor
- One who empower us to empower others
- One who leads us as we lead others to Jesus

Servant Leadership – Progressive Growth in Christ

Servant leadership requires the practice of certain disciplines.

These disciplines are key elements of "abiding in Christ."

They are progressive in nature –

- Humility - "apart from Him I can do nothing" - leads me to:
- Seek Him - and as He reveals Himself and what He is doing - I can:
- Love Him - by obeying and working with Him - this will lead me to:
- Serve Him - as I lovingly serve others - this creates opportunities to:
- Exalt Him - by giving Him the glory - and to maximize my faithfulness:
- Accountability - I ask others to hold me to these disciplines.

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