

Christian Education Ministry Lesson November 14, 2013

A Ministry Leader is A Servant

What is a servant? A servant is defined as one who works for the comfort or protection of others. Servant hood requires three fundamental attributes. They are the right attitude, the right ambitions and the right actions. These are known as the 3 A's of servant leadership. You see, true servant hood begins in the heart. The 3 A's are driven by the God in you. You must rid yourself of pride that can so quickly settle in the hearts of leaders. You need a *humble heart* willing to submit. Playing the part eventually shows itself.

Attitude is a small thing that makes a big difference. Your attitude should be the same that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not demand and cling to his right as God. He made himself nothing; he took the humble position as a slave and appeared in human form. And in human form he obediently humbled himself even further by dying a criminal's death on a cross (Philippians 2: 5-8). This is Christ's model of the right attitude. "For even I, the Son of Man, came here not to be served but to serve others and give up my life as a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28). Remember, the right attitude will accomplish much.

Ambitions are defined as one's desired objectives or goals. As leaders you should have the desire to serve all kinds of people, even the unlovable, your haters, backstabbers, etc. You need a *grace filled heart of love that* genuinely cares for and values people. Listen, to this great ambition as outline in the Bible, “ But I Say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust, too. If you love only those who love you, what good is that? (Matthew 5:44-46) To be a faithful servant, you must rid yourself of personal prejudices and be willing to step out of your comfort zone for others. Are you willing to do this?

Actions that are not characteristic of a servant leader are stifling, self-serving, superior and stingy. Let's briefly examine each of these:

1. A servant is *not stifling* by a need to maintain control but rather open to contributions of others.
2. A servant is *not self-serving* but rather selflessly yielding to the opinions of others and not always having to take the credit for what is done.
3. A servant is *not superior* but rather meek, not feeling it beneath himself to do menial task.

4. A servant is **not stingy** but rather giving of his time, talent, treasure and resources. Do not give begrudgingly or with thought of return.

Being a servant leader does not mean letting everybody simply “do what is right in their own eyes” as that would only lead to troubles and chaos. Parameters must be provided that work toward the good of the whole and glory to God. We do not serve by seeking to please people, but rather God who is the One to whom we are ultimately accountable. For if a man cannot manage his own household, how can he take care of God’s church? (1Timothy 3:5).