

The Servant

Scripture: Matthew 20:20-28 NIV
Matthew 23:11 NIV
2 Timothy 24-26 NIV

Introduction

Many times our ambitions cause us to seek positions of leadership without realizing the Christian qualities that are necessary to be a good leader. Christian leadership always involves becoming a servant. One cannot be a Christian leader without first becoming a servant, for the Christian leader must possess a servant's heart.

I. The world's concept of being a leader

John 20:20-22a NIV Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him. "What is it that you want?" She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right hand and the other at your left in your kingdom." "You do not know what you are asking," Jesus said unto them.

- A. The world's authority flows from the top down
- B. The world expects a leader to show authority
 - 1. The boss - slave relationship
 - 2. The "Do what I tell you" attitude
- C. The manipulative - exploitative attitude

II. The Christian concept of leadership

Matthew 20:25-27 NIV Jesus called them together, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave...."

Matthew 23:11 NIV The greatest among you will be your servant.

- A. Christian authority flows from the bottom upward

- 1. The Christian leader is a servant
- 2. The Christian leader must serve before he can lead
- B. Christ's example in washing the disciples' feet
- C. Christ's example of sacrificial service

III. The characteristics of the servant's heart

2 Timothy 2:24-26 NIV And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

- A. The servant of the Lord is not quarrelsome
- B. The servant of the Lord is kind to everyone
- C. The servant of the Lord is able to teach
 - 1. By word
 - 2. By example
- D. The servant of the Lord is not resentful
- E. The servant of the Lord gently instructs those who oppose
 - 1. Hoping for their repentance
 - 2. Leading them to the knowledge of the truth
 - 3. Helping them come to their senses
 - 4. Helping them escape the trap of the devil