

**Discussion:**  
**Serving Others**

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LEAD510 - Biblical Foundations of Leadership

May 13, 2025

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## **The Difficulty of Serving Others**

Christian leadership may seem enticing to some, but it requires that one demonstrates effective self-stewardship. What many Christians are not aware of is the fact that they are already leaders, simply because they are Christians, and by default are responsible for serving others. Serving other people is not always an easy task, and one of the primary factors that make it difficult is one's self. The idea of being in an elevated role over others can be morally intoxicating if not managed through sound biblical principle and the power of the Holy Spirit. Don Howell, Jr. writes, "Formal leadership in the secular or religious world is always a moral test."<sup>1</sup> This is a powerfully true statement because leadership is often seen as a means for recognition, admiration by others, opportunity for advancement, and monetary gain. Howell also says that elevation as a result of leadership opens the door for greed, arrogance, and vanity to creep into your life and overtake your soul.<sup>2</sup> Christian leaders must be careful not to allow the sinful allure of the vices of leadership to become their motivation for being a leader.

## **Nurturing a Lifestyle of Humility**

Being a Christian leader means being a servant to others. Leaders who serve others project a lifestyle of what true leadership is by living the example. Without question, the greatest leader who ever walked this earth is Jesus Christ our Lord, who demonstrated leadership through service. Jesus said, "And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all." (Mark 10:44 KJV) There is no ambiguity in this statement; great leaders are first and foremost great servants who care for the needs of others over themselves. A lifestyle such as this must be

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<sup>1</sup> Don N. Howell Jr., [\*Servants of the Servant: A Biblical Theology of Leadership\*](#) (Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2003), 189.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

intentionally nurtured by the leader. Dr. David Nemitz shared an important and practical method of followership that nurtures the hallmarks of great leadership in a person. Dr. Nemitz posits that when leaders allow themselves time for silence and solitude, they benefit by 1) Hearing God's Voice, 2) Worshipping God, 3) Situational/Circumstantial Salvation, 4) Direction/Discernment, and 5) Self-control.<sup>3</sup> All of these contribute to the nurturing of attitudes and dispositions that develop and enhance a personal character that promotes humility in a leader. These essences of leadership causes the leader to focus on hearing God's will for their leadership lifestyle.

### **Kingdom Leadership**

Christian leadership is actually Kingdom leadership that seeks to help other grow and improve their daily walks with God. When sharing the key elements of the Christian leadership outer journey, Dr. Nemitz discussed the element of maximizing people<sup>4</sup>, which is the idea of working with other to empower them to become the very best they can be for Christ. I especially like this element because it is what I personally enjoy as a secular information technology (IT) manager, and as a pastor and teacher in my church. Nothing brings me more joy than to see someone grow and become a better person in the various aspects of their life.

For example, about ten years ago, one of my direct reports in IT wanted to help maintain one of our company's systems, but it was coded in a computer language he did not know. Though I had many responsibilities as a manager, I wanted to see this young man grow and increase his technical knowledge. I personally spent time with him to help him learn the computer language because I already knew it. In what seemed to be a short period of time, my

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<sup>3</sup> Dr. David Nemitz, Canvas Library, Essence of Followership (video), [https://canvas.liberty.edu/courses/698875/pages/watch-essence-of-followership?module\\_item\\_id=76812519](https://canvas.liberty.edu/courses/698875/pages/watch-essence-of-followership?module_item_id=76812519)

<sup>4</sup> Dr. David Nemitz, Canvas Library, Church Leadership Tools: Christian Leadership, (video), [https://canvas.liberty.edu/courses/698875/pages/watch-church-leader-tools-christian-leadership?module\\_item\\_id=76812527](https://canvas.liberty.edu/courses/698875/pages/watch-church-leader-tools-christian-leadership?module_item_id=76812527)

investment in his learning not only got him a position of the team he was interested in, but now after more than a decade, he is managing his own department. I am thankful and blessed that I was able to play a part in his life success, and I consider that to be Kingdom leadership in a secular space.

Another example of Kingdom leadership is the work God allows me to do as a mentor to young pastors and ministers. By the grace of God, pastors and ministers seek me out for advice and biblical instruction, and I am completely humbled by these opportunities. One of the pastors I mentor was going through a very serious personal issue that could have led to being removed from his pastorate. This brother came to me, trusted me with his problems, and followed the direction and advice the Holy Spirit gave me for him. Not only did he avert very serious life mistakes, but followed the plan I set up for him, and he became accountable to me for his walk with God. Today, his church is thriving, and God has abundantly blessed his family. For me, there is nothing more rewarding than to see someone I am working with grow and excel even beyond where I personally am in life and ministry.

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