

The **CORE**
A Discipleship Tool for FBC, Nowata

The CORE is designed to help you understand what a disciple of Jesus Christ looks like and then learn how to develop those characteristics in your life.

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Leadership Defined

In 1977, Robert Greenleaf, then an executive in the communications industry, announced to the world that a new moral principle was emerging in society. He wrote that in the future, “the only truly viable institutions will be those that are predominately servant-led.” (*Servant Leadership*, pg. 10)

I believe he is absolutely right - especially as it relates to the Church. For the church to be viable in our world we must have servant leaders who truly care about people. When the church began, the leaders within recognized their incredible responsibility to serve. Reading Paul’s writings even casually will show that he believed he was a servant to those he led. Was he forceful at times? Yes, he was, but always with compassion and reconciliation on his heart. Jesus himself set it all up this way by giving us his perfect example. There has never been a better leader on the face of the earth yet he was also a servant to those he led.

The church today must get back to that model of servant leadership. The church is no place for power hungry, self-promoting people. The church needs leaders who love God with everything they have and love other people to the point of serving them. For too long leadership within the church has been populated by people who want status and recognition instead of edification of the body. Certainly there are times when the leaders have to take control - but it must be done in a way to protect and serve not to dominate and control selfishly.

Over the next 4 weeks we will be involved with the Scriptures as they teach us about true servant leadership. As we are in a time of evaluation and election of new deacons - this is an incredibly important topic for us at FBC.

As you study this week ask God to speak to you through His Word. I believe He wants to redirect us back to His purpose and plan. We can become an example to the world around us of what it means to love one another and serve one another. Leaders are not the only ones who are called to serve. If you are a Christian that call goes out to you also!

Have a great week in the Word!

Pastor Todd

Section 1: Parables of Servanthood

The following parables of Jesus help us in our understanding of being a servant. As you read each of them ask these questions:

1. Who is Jesus talking to?
2. What is the main thing you believe He is trying to teach?
3. Why is this important?
4. Are there rewards or promises made in the story if a person follows the teaching?
5. What is your general feeling about the parable?
6. What do you think God is trying to teach you?

Matthew 24:45-51

Matthew 25:14-30

Luke 12:35-40

Luke 19:11-27

Section 2: “You’re gonna have to serve somebody!”

Bob Dylan’s song is very true. You are gonna have to serve somebody. The question is who will you serve? In the following verses the Apostle Paul tells us who and how we are to serve.

Romans 6:16-22

1. Paul says you are a slave to who or what you obey. In the context he was speaking of sin or righteousness. How can we live in a way where we are slaves to sin?

To righteousness?

2. Serving sin brought about consequences. What were those consequences?

What consequences come from serving righteousness?

Knowing this difference, why do we still allow ourselves to be dominated by sin? Make this answer personal. Ask God for wisdom to serve Him better.

Galatians 5:13-15

1. It appears that we have a choice to make as to how we treat others. What are those 2 choices?

What part does your freedom play in this?

Section 3: Jesus as a Servant

Philippians 2:5-11

Meditate on the implications of this passage. This is such a rich passage - spend some quality time with it and allow the Holy Spirit to guide your thoughts.

John 13:1-11

What does this say about the character of Jesus?

What does His response to Peter bring to your mind?

Do you realize that Jesus would have washed Judas’ feet too? If Jesus was willing to do this for one who would betray Him, what should we be willing to do for others around us?