

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.

Vol. 1, No. 13

April 22, 2007

The Power Of Humility

Humility in the life of a Christian is a requirement. It was one of the distinguishing characteristics of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because He is our example for life - we too must take on His characteristics. Knowing that is one thing - doing it is definitely another. This is especially true in those who find themselves in leadership roles within the church. It is so easy to get off track and begin to think more highly of ourselves than we ought. Paul said that very thing in Romans 12:3 - "*3 For by the grace given to me, I tell everyone among you **not** to think of himself more highly than he should think. Instead, think sensibly, as God has distributed a measure of faith to each one. (HCSB)*

The reason we are not to think more highly of ourselves than is sensible is this -- without God's grace and mercy we would be absolutely nothing. Therefore everything we are or ever hope to be is found in Him and His love for us - not in ourselves.

As servants of God, every Christian is called to lay down their lives for others. There are some who are called to even greater sacrifice and responsibility. To those the title of servant leader is given. As we found out last week during the Sunday morning message, our view of leadership within the body of Christ is very different from the world's view of leadership. The world sees leadership as a way to power, position and prestige. While there is power, position and prestige in the vernacular of Christian leadership it is from an entirely different perspective: Power is gained as we live Spirit-controlled lives. Position is that of a servant (not high and lifted up / or exalted). Prestige is found in being united with Christ in His example of self-sacrifice.

This week we want to begin looking at what Gene Wilkes in his book, "Jesus on Leadership," calls 7 principles of Servant Leadership. As you study the verses this week ask God to speak to you through His Word.

Whether you see yourself as a leader within the church or not - these principles are important. Why? First, you need to be aware of God's perspective on leadership within the church. Second, every Christian is called to serve. Your place may not be seen as a leadership role but your servant hood is still valuable to the Kingdom of God. Knowing the standard God has set in His word will help you understand what the leaders within the church are to be about and how you can assist and do your part in making FBC a place known as a church with a servant heart.

I hope you have a great week in God's word. Be encouraged and serve someone this week in a way that shows them who you live for.

Pastor Todd

SECTION 1

Read Luke 14:7-11

Servant Leadership Principle #1: Servants humble themselves and wait for God to exalt them.

1. How does a person humble themselves?

How can you tell the difference between false humility and honest humility? Is it important to know the difference?

2. Jesus isn't the only one who taught humility, look at James 4:6 and I Peter 5:6. What do these verses say about being humble?
3. Read Deuteronomy 8:2-6. According to these verses what purpose did humility play in the lives of the Israelites? In other words, why do you think humility was so important to God?
4. Read II Chronicles 7:14. The humility of the Israelites had direct results. What were those results? Do you think we can apply those same ideas to us if we will humble ourselves?

SECTION 2

Servant Leadership Principle #2: Servants give up personal rights to find greatness in serving others.

1. Why is it so hard to give up our personal rights?
2. In Philippians 2:8, Paul describes Jesus as humbling himself by becoming obedient to the point of death. The most basic of human rights is the right to life and yet - humility is linked with laying down ones life for the sake of others. How does that affect your thinking on being a servant?
3. Paul deals with his own personal right to live in Galatians 2:20. How can you imitate his example?
4. We immortalize our fallen heroes who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom as a nation and well we should. Likewise there have been many people who have given their lives for the sake of the eternal life of others. Everyday around the world there are people who are literally laying their lives on the line in order that others may know the love of God. Pause right now and thank God for those people and ask God to give you that kind of commitment level to lay down your life if it is required of you.

SECTION 3

Servant Leadership Principle #3: Servants take up Christ's example of servanthood.

Read Matthew 20:28.

1. How does it make you feel knowing that the God of the universe came to serve mankind?

Read Philippians 2:1-4

1. "Considering others more important than yourselves" - that is what Jesus modeled for us. He lived not for Himself but to fulfill the Father's plan of redemption for you and me. How can you live today in order to follow this example?

2. In Philippians 1:20 Paul makes an amazing statement: *20 My eager expectation and hope is that I will not be ashamed about anything, but that now as always, with all boldness, Christ will be highly honored in my body, whether by life or by death. (HCSB)*

Make it your prayer that whether in life or death Jesus will be honored in you. Serve Him in such a way that if He were to come back today, He would find you faithfully living His example to the world!