

December 19, 2018



## 9 Important Traits in Becoming a Servant-Leader

One of the clear patterns God has called leaders to live by is servant-leadership. This is one of the four core values of our Salt & Light family.

### 4 CORE FAMILY VALUES

Below are listed our core beliefs. Of course, these beliefs characterise very many Christians and churches, and are not specific to Salt & Light.

So what characterises our family? We have chosen 4 words to sum up our core family values:

#### DISCIPLES

Discipleship is about growing all of God's people into maturity, so that each one can both enjoy relationship with God and play their full part in his mission. Therefore, everyone is called to be both making disciples and disciplined in an accountable relationship. This includes church senior leaders, who should relate to someone for input, accountability and care ("Every Pastor needs a pastor").

A key practice for us is to live generously. This is vital for individuals and communities to enjoy the blessing of God, and to play their part in his mission as we are generous with possessions, finance and people!

#### SERVANT-LEADERS

We aim to equip every Christian to be a servant-leader, in the home, church community and at work.

Anointed servant leadership is vital in the body of Christ, and help all to grow to full maturity and fulfil their God-given destiny. Leaders must be servant-leaders!

A key practice for us is to understand and receive the spiritual authority of anointed servant-leaders, allowing us to live under its blessing.

#### 4 CORE FAMILY VALUES

**Servant-leaders:** *We aim to equip every Christian to be a servant-leader, in the home, church community and at work. Anointed servant leadership, as Jesus taught and modelled, is vital in order to build up everyone in the Body of Christ, and help all to grow to full maturity and fulfil their God-given destiny. Therefore, understanding and receiving the spiritual authority of anointed leaders allows*

*us to live under its blessing.*

Jesus told His disciple that the arrogant way ungodly leaders lead is not to be in their leadership style.

*Matthew 20:25-28 MSG "You've observed how godless rulers throw their weight around, how quickly a little power goes to their heads. 26 It's not going to be that way with you.*

He goes on to show the contrast...servanthood.

*Whoever wants to be great must become a servant. 27 Whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave. 28 This is how I came, not to be served, but to serve and give my life away to ransom many. (Mark 19:42-45).*

Paul echoed Jesus' way of leadership. The model Paul puts forth is Jesus Himself.

*Phi 2:3-11 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; 4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. 5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men...*

## **Two awful examples of ungodly leadership**

I was once with a friend who was a local church leader who had an interesting background. He had graduated from a prominent mega-church Bible college and afterwards was a student in their advanced mission's school. While there he'd had the responsibility of transporting high profile "ministers" who came to "do ministry." He spoke of one shocking experience that reveals the polar opposite attitude of servant leadership.

One minister who came flew with his entourage to their nation in his private jet. The host church had booked the most expensive, most affluent hotel to be found in their large Scandinavian city for that minister and his group. When they arrived at the hotel door, the famous preacher said, "This won't work; we need something else." They ended up finding an exclusive resort about 100 miles away and having to reserve the whole place at great expense to the local church.

This doesn't sound much like Jesus, "The Son of man has nowhere to lay His head," (Mt 8:20, Lk 9:58) or Paul, "I have learned to be content and get along with a small amount or prosperity," (Phil 4:12).

My friend's story reminded me of another account a leader in Alabama gave of a preacher who came there, arriving at a church in a limousine and was whisked into a private waiting room behind the stage area.

*The evangelist gave specific instructions to leave his limousine's engine running (I guess he wasn't concerned about rising gas prices) so that the temperature inside his car would remain constant. The evangelist then preached to the waiting crowd, took up his own offering and retired to the waiting room for some refreshments. Then he left the church with his entourage without even speaking to the host pastor.*

I like how the reporting leader identified the heart of the problem, a lack of authentic servant-leadership.

*We've created a monster—a version of Christianity that is slick, marketable and event-driven but lacking in any authentic impact. It is as one-dimensional as a flat-screen TV—and a total turnoff to people who are starving for genuine relationships.*

## 9 Important Traits to Becoming Servant Leaders

- **Holy Spirit discerned self-awareness.** Servant leaders consistently walk with Holy Spirit so they are aware of feelings and motivations that are self initiated, rather than God initiated. As they do, “by the Spirit, they put to death the deeds of the flesh.” (Romans 8:13, Galatians 5:19-25).
- **Become a chief repenter.** Because servant leaders walk in Holy Spirit revealed self-awareness, they quickly repent when their behavior and motivations gravitate towards selfishness. I have heard it said, “Pastors must be the chief repenters in a congregation of repenters.”
- **Seek God for empathy towards others.** Because servant leaders care about others, they express the heart of the resurrected Jesus who is our “high priest who is able to be touched by the feelings of our feeble flesh,” (Heb 4:15). This is part of caring.
- **Draw near and listen to others.** Like Jesus, our faithful high priest, servant leaders want to know and identify with what people they serve are going through (Hebrews 4:14-16).
- **Seek to bring healing to people.** Like the good shepherds Jesus mentions in his word, servant leaders seek first of all to support, heal, and lead in good paths those whom they care for (following God and His word John 10:7-18).
- **Seek to build people into family relationships because this is the nature of God's house and the need of all mankind (Psalms 68:6-7).** This is what Paul desired, and tried to do for everyone, even those he hadn't met yet (Col 2:1-3). He knew this was God's design for His people and beneficial for everyone.
- **Be humble and willing to take the low place.** They sleep where their people sleep and eat where their people eat.

**"True leadership must be for the benefit of the followers, not to enrich the leader." — John C. Maxwell**

- **Revel in the success of others and consistently put them in the limelight.** Servant leaders tend to live with the attitude the Godhead has towards each other. Their greatest joy is to see others exalted (Matthew 3:16-17, John 8:28, 54, 13:31-32, 14:10, 16:35, 17:5, Philippians 2:3-9, Romans 12:9-10). Paul delighted in the success of others whom he called “my joy and my crown,” (1 Thessalonians 2:19, Philippians 4:1). There is no jealousy or envy with them. Servant leaders take the spotlight off themselves and put it on others. You find them doing this in conversations and interactions.
- **Look out for and make sure other's needs are met even ahead of your own.** This was the attitude of Jesus and His call for His leaders (Philippians 2, Mark 10:42-45, Matthew 28:10-1-28). This means being faithful in what you do to help others (Matthew 25:21-23, Luke 19:11).

Check it out and sign up



Servant leadership was the **first trait** Jesus called His leaders to pursue during the last week of His life on earth (John 12:23-26) and in the last supper dialogue (John 13:1-34). It is the Godly trait all His leaders are to embrace.

**Doug Kreighbaum**  
[dkreighbaum@gmail.com](mailto:dkreighbaum@gmail.com)  
[www.c2cfamily.org](http://www.c2cfamily.org)  
[www.dougreighbaum.com](http://www.dougreighbaum.com)