

The Serving Church

Sunday, March 20, 2016

(Philippians 2:1 - 11)

Even the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.

- Jesus

The question the Priest and Levite asked was: 'If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?' But the good Samaritan asked: "If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?"

- Martin Luther King Jr.

Introduction:

As we conclude this series on the equipping of the Church we will look at one more Scripture that has much to say about being a serving Church. Our purpose in serving is always tied to our relationship with Christ, the Head of the Church. René Padilla said it this way - *As your Christology, so also shall your Ecclesiology be.*

In his book *Experiencing LeaderShift* Don Cousins identifies an 'organizational heresy' that exists in many churches (see reverse). The difference between an institutional model of church and a Biblical model makes all the difference in the world. This is why Jesus must lead us both by His example and by His Spirit if we are to become true servants.

Sermon Outline: Philippians 2:1 - 11

1. Unity in our Serving comes from Unity with Christ (vs. 1)

2. Community in our Serving shows in Humility toward One Another (vs. 2 - 4)

4. Sincerity in our Serving comes from having the Attitude of Christ (vs. 5 - 11)

Questions for Reflection / Discussion:

i. Authenticity in our service depends on being united with Christ, showing His humility toward others and having His attitude in serving and giving ourselves to one another. What are signs that show a lack of authenticity in the service we offer to God and one another?

The Organizational Heresy

By Don Cousins, Experiencing LeaderShift, (pp. 123 - 147)

Institutional Model

- Board Led
- Staff Run
- Congregation Served
- World Ignored

Biblical Model

- Board Protected
- Staff Led
- Congregation Serving
- World Served

Find the Zone of God's Anointing on your Life

Every member of the body of Christ has at least one Spiritual gift, and it's to be used to serve others. The (church) works as God intends only when every believer sees himself or herself as a contributor, not a consumer. (p. 142)

If success in ministry were based on us, then we would only make ourselves famous. But truly successful ministry makes God famous, because only by His anointing do we experience such success. (p. 211)

Success in God's eyes means abiding in faithfulness, in fruitfulness and in fulfillment (the experience of His joy). He delights when His Name is made famous among the people He created. Therefore strive to be found faithful. Abide in Him so you bear much fruit. Long for the true fulfillment that faithful and fruitful living produces. Labour to make His Name famous. (p. 81)