

Matt 18:3-4—"...unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

Isaiah 66:2—"... But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word."

James 4:6—"... God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

1 Peter 5:5—"... be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility..."

2 Tim 2:24-25—A servant of the Lord must... in humility correct those who are in opposition...

"If any of us are placed in a position of authority in the Church, we must always remember that it is for service—not to show how important we are. We should often remember to read and meditate on Jesus' instruction to His disciples along these lines."

Meredith, R.C. (Nov-Dec 2003). *Living Church News* (p. 3).

2. Loving God's People

Group Question:

- If a leader truly loves God's people, what effect will this have on the congregation?

John 15:13—Greater love has no man than to lay down his life for his friends.

Matt 16:24—If anyone is to follow Christ, he must *deny himself*, take up his cross and follow Him.

Lev 19:18—Love your neighbor as yourself.

"Servant leaders wash their followers' feet [serve their followers] because their first concern in leadership development is to prepare them for what Christ wants done."

Lawrence, B. (1999). *Effective Pastoring* (p. 83). USA: Word Publishing.

3. Avoiding Selfish Ambitions

Group Question:

- If a leader aspires to greatness and glory, how might this harm the congregation?

Phil 2:3—"Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself."

v. 7—Christ made himself of *no reputation*, taking the form of a bond servant.

Prov 30:8—Remove far from me vanity and lies...

Jer 45:5—"And do you seek great things for yourself? Do not seek them..."

James 3:13-18—For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.

Acts 8:9-24—Simon the sorcerer selfishly wanted the office of apostle so he could have and give power.

"Serving is the point [of being a leader], not winning."

Lawrence, B. (1999). *Effective Pastoring* (p. 16). USA: Word Publishing.

4. Setting the Example of a Servant

Group Questions:

- In what ways does a leader's example affect those whom he or she serves?
- If a leader does not set the example of a servant, how will this affect the congregation?