

Introduction - "Back to 1st Corinthians"

Previously in 1st Corinthians

The Hiddenness of God's Wisdom
(1 Corinthians 2:6-10a)

God reveals himself to those who have
the Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:10b-12)

What the goal of a real sermon is
(1 Corinthians 2:13)

Unspiritual vrs. Spiritual People
(1 Corinthians 2:14-16)

Planting, Watering, and Watching it Grow

A slam at their past (1 Cor. 3:1-2a)

A slam at their present! (1 Cor 3:2b-4)

Who are these rock stars anyway?
(1 Cor 3:5)

What is Biblical Leadership?
Matthew 20:20-28

Ephesians 5:22-29

Putting everything in perspective
(1 Cor. 3:6-9a)

1. Who are leaders?
2. Who owns the joint?
3. The joy of co-laboring with God!

Application - *"Do you really believe that anything that happens for growth in your life, the life of the church or your personal ministry is really the result of God's work?"*

1 Corinthians 3:1-9a

¹Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly—mere infants in Christ. ²I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. ³You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men? ⁴For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not mere men? ⁵What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. ⁶I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. ⁷So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. ⁸The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. ⁹For we are God's fellow workers...

Matthew 20:20-28

²⁰Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him.

²¹"What is it you want?" he asked.

She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom."

²²"You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?"

"We can," they answered.

²³Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father."

²⁴When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. ²⁵Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ²⁶Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ²⁷and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—²⁸just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Ephesians 5:22-29

²²Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. ²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church...



SOUTH AFRICA

Hope Summer Project - 2009

June 8th - August 12th, 2009

For more information, contact Pastor Steve @ steve@hopecc.com

INFORMATIONAL LUNCH - May 3rd, 2009



PREVIOUSLY ON

**CHURCH IN CRISIS:
A STUDY OF FIRST
CORINTHIANS**

How to Preach [Listen to] a Sermon! – part two

1. The “Hiddenness” of God’s wisdom

1 Corinthians 2:6-10a

⁶ We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. ⁷ No, we speak of God’s secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. ⁸ None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹

However, as it is written:

“No eye has seen, no ear has heard,
no mind has conceived

what God has prepared for those who love him” – *[Isaiah 64:4]*

¹⁰ but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit



How to Preach [Listen to] a Sermon! – part two

2. God has been revealed to us -- > who have the Spirit -- > who deeply knows the Father

1 Corinthians 2:10b-12

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. ¹¹ For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.



How to Preach [Listen to] a Sermon! – part two

2. The whole thing has been revealed to us who have the Spirit who deeply knows the Father

1 Corinthians 2:10b-12

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. ¹¹ For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.

How to Preach [Listen to] a Sermon! – part two

3. What the goal of a real sermon is

1 Corinthians 2:13

¹³ This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.



How to Preach [Listen to] a Sermon! – part two

4. Unspiritual vrs. Spiritual People

1 Corinthians 2:14-16

¹⁴The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

¹⁵The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment:

¹⁶“For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?” *[Isaiah 40:13]*

But we have the mind of Christ.

Regeneration

Regeneration

Two Big Questions:

Regeneration

Two Big Questions:

1. Are you regenerated (born again)?

Regeneration

Two Big Questions:

1. Are you regenerated (born again)?

2. Do you think and live like a regenerated person?

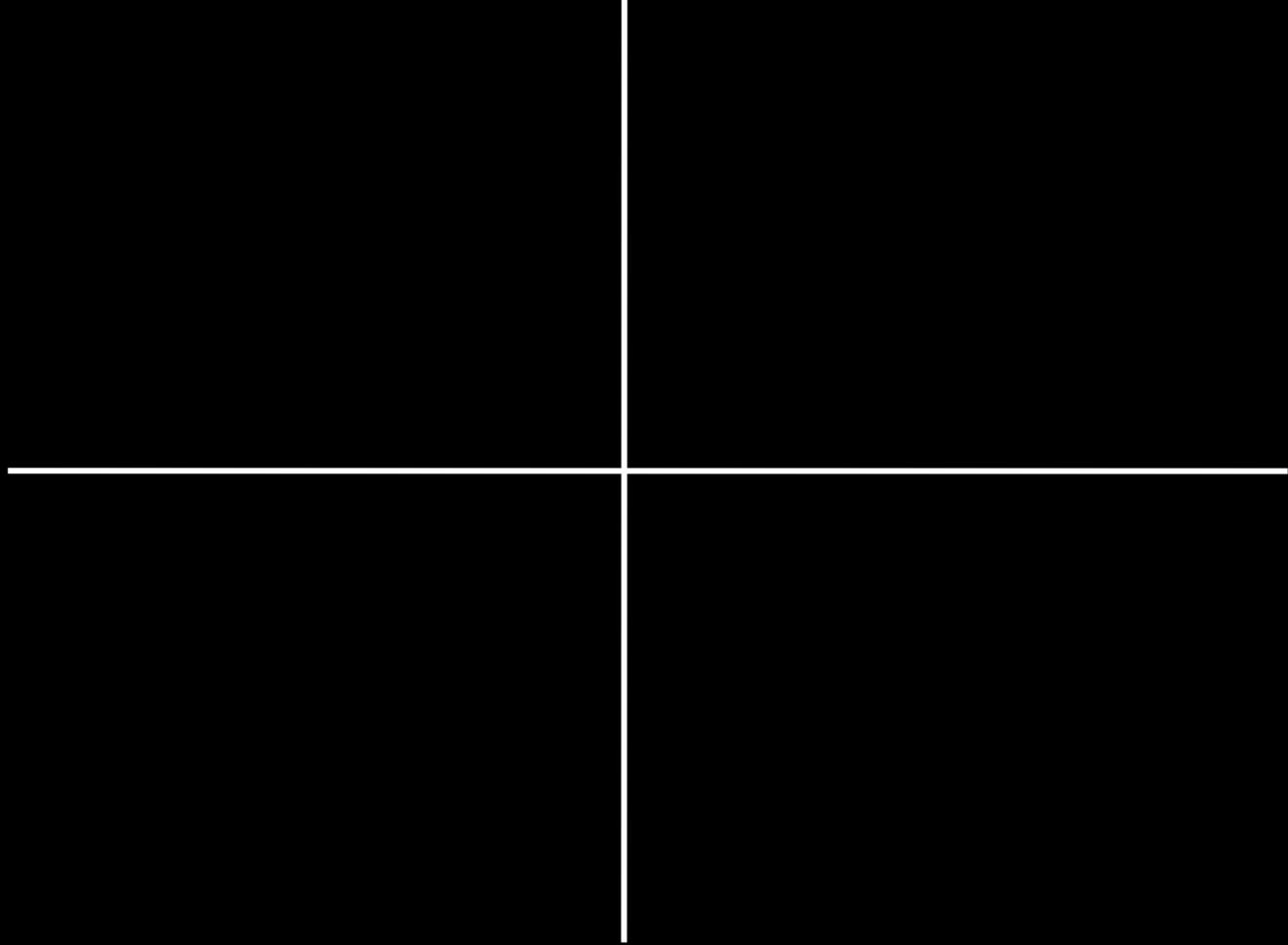
Are you Regenerated?

Yes

No

Yes

No



Think and live so?

Are you Regenerated?

Yes

No

Yes

No

Woman at the Well
(John 4)

“Happy” Non-Christian

Think and live so?

Are you Regenerated?

Yes

No

Yes

Nicodemus / Saul

Religious Person

Inoculated with Gospel

No

Woman at the Well
(John 4)

Happy Non-Christian

Think and live so?

Are you Regenerated?

Yes

No

Yes

Nicodemus / Saul

Religious Person

Inoculated with Gospel

No

Corinthians

Tortured / Troubled /
Inconsistent

Woman at the Well
(John 4)

Happy Non-Christian

Think and live so?

Are you Regenerated?

Yes

No

Yes

Paul

Nicodemus / Saul

Born Again

Religious Person

Spiritual - "Christian"

Inoculated with Gospel

No

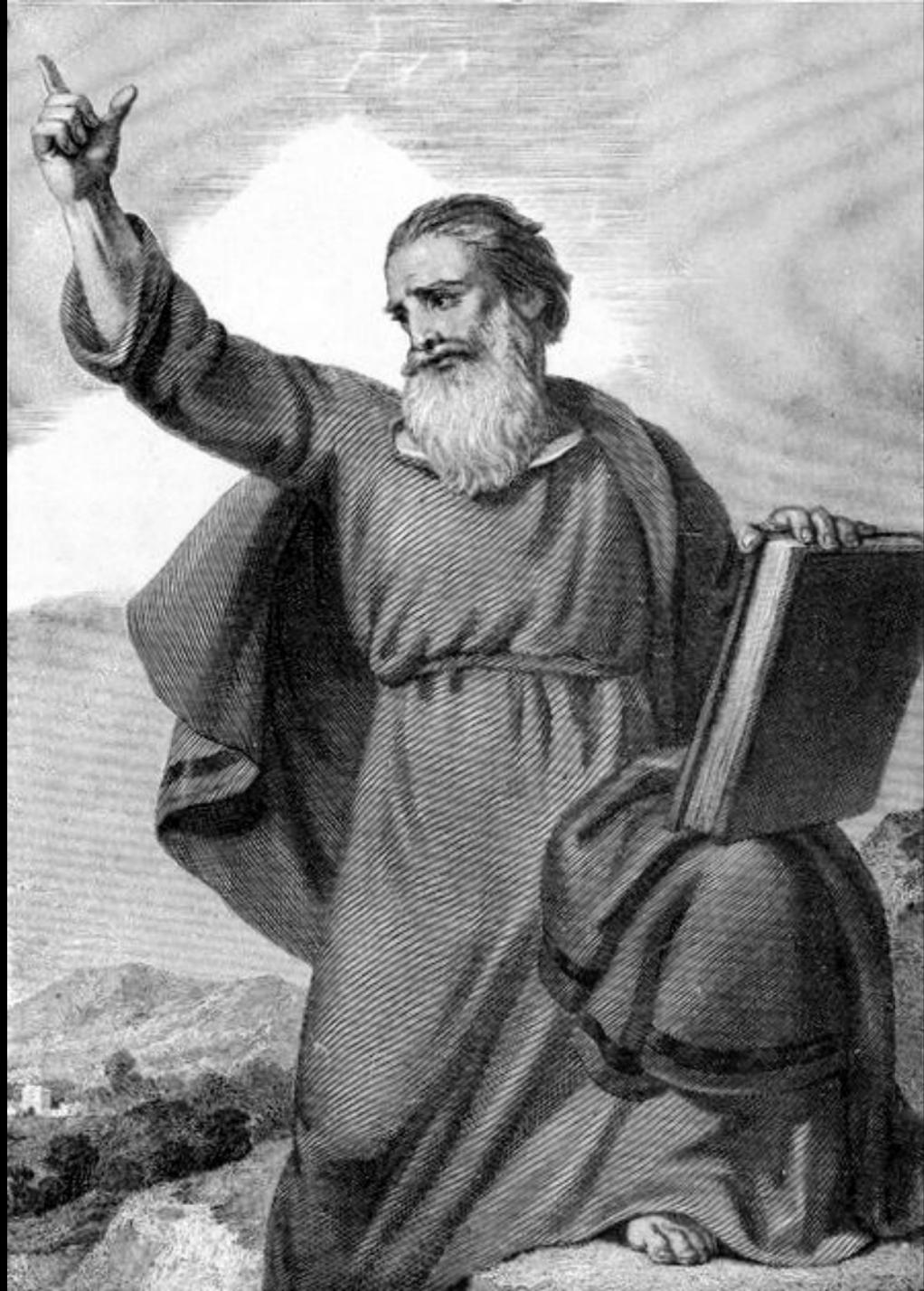
Corinthians

Woman at the Well
(John 4)

Tortured / Troubled /
Inconsistent

Happy Non-Christian

Think and live so?



1 Corinthians 3:1-9a

¹Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly — mere infants in Christ. ²I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. ³You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men?

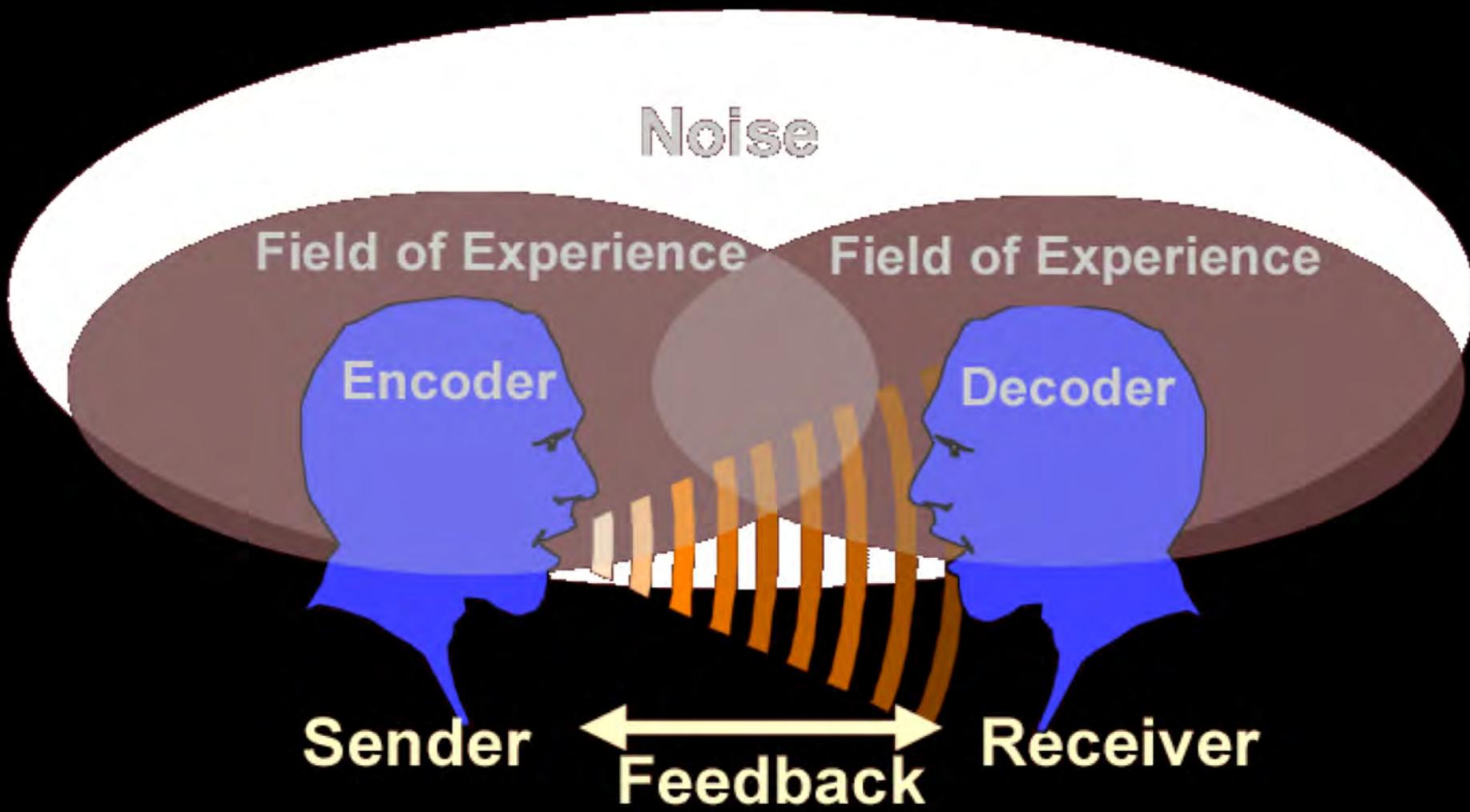
⁴For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not mere men? ⁵What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe — as the Lord has assigned to each his task. ⁶I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. ⁷So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. ⁸The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. ⁹For we are God’s fellow workers...

**Planting, Watering and
Watching it Grow!**

A slam at their past...

1 Corinthians 3:1-2a

¹Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly — mere infants in Christ. ²I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it.



Are you Regenerated?

Yes

No

Yes

Paul

Nicodemus / Saul

Born Again

Religious Person

Spiritual - "Christian"

Inoculated with Gospel

No

Corinthians

Woman at the Well
(John 4)

Tortured / Troubled /
Inconsistent

Happy Non-Christian

Think and live so?



A slam at their present!

1 Corinthians 3:2b-4

Indeed, you are still not ready. ³You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men? ⁴For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not mere men?



Jealousy – starts at an early age!



Quarreling – doesn't come much later...

A slam at their present!

1 Corinthians 3:2b-4

Indeed, you are still not ready. ³You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men? ⁴For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not mere men?

Who are these rock stars anyway?

1 Corinthians 3:5

⁵What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe — as the Lord has assigned to each his task.



WORLD'S
BEST
BOSS

Biblical Leadership = Servant Leadership

Biblical Leadership = Servant Leadership

Matthew 20:20-28

²⁰ Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him.

²¹ "What is it you want?" he asked.

She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom."

²² "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them.

"Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?"

"We can," they answered.

Biblical Leadership = Servant Leadership

Matthew 20:20-28

²³ Jesus said to them, “You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father.”

²⁴ When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. ²⁵ Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ²⁶ Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wants to be first must be your slave — ²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Biblical Leadership = Servant Leadership

Ephesians 5:22-29

²² Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

Biblical Leadership = Servant Leadership

Ephesians 5:22-29

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸ In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church...

Putting everything in perspective

1 Corinthians 3:6-9a

⁶I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow.

⁷So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. ⁸The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. ⁹For we are God's fellow workers...

Putting everything in perspective

1. Who are leaders?

1 Corinthians 3:6-9a

⁶I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow.

⁷So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. ⁸The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. ⁹For we are God's fellow workers...

Putting everything in perspective

2. Who owns the joint?

1 Corinthians 3:6-9a

⁶I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow.

⁷So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. ⁸The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. ⁹For we are God's fellow workers...

Putting everything in perspective

3. The joy of co-laboring with God

1 Corinthians 3:6-9a

⁶I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow.

⁷So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. ⁸The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. ⁹For we are God's fellow workers...

All too often those “in charge,” be they clergy, boards, vestry, sessions, or what have you, tend to think of the church as “theirs.” They pay lip-service to its being. “Christ’s church, after all,” then proceed to operate on the basis of very pagan secular structures, and regularly speak of “my” or “our” church. Nor does the church belong to the people, especially those who have “attended all their lives,” or who have “supported it with great sums of money,” as though that gave them special privileges. The church belongs to Christ, and all other things – structures, attitudes, decisions, nature of ministry, everything – should flow out of that singular realization. Moreover, those “in charge” must be ever mindful of who is really in charge. To be a servant does *not* mean that abdication of leadership, nor, on the other hand, does it mean to become everyone’s



Gordon Fee

“errand boy or girl.” It has to do with attitude, perspective not with one’s place on the organizational chart. And as Paul will make clear in 4:8-17, it must be “like priest, like people.” Servant leadership is required precisely because servanthood is the basic stance of all truly Christian behavior.

~Gordon D. Fee, *The First Epistle to the Corinthians*, page 135.

Application Questions

Are you regenerate?

Are you still a carnal (unspiritual, worldly Christian)?
What is stopping you from growing in Christ?

Are you a leadership groupie in the church?

Are you trying to be a “rock star” for Jesus?

Do you really believe that anything that happens for growth in your life, the life of the church or your personal ministry is really the result of God’s work?