

Supporting Christian Unity in the Alfred Community



Lead or Follow?

The short answer is, "do both". Throughout our lives each of us has found ourselves in a variety of rolls that can call upon our skills as leaders or the servant-hood of being followers. Many of us have experienced the differences between these functions at work, at home and even in the places we worship.

No matter what our position is at this moment in time it is important that we understand that whatever our current sphere of responsibility is ~ we are serving in some capacity or another. Each of us is serving according to our gifts whether you are wearing the title of C.E.O. of a major corporation or the part-time stockperson at the local grocery store.

I used to work for a very large corporation that had three founding principles:

1. Respect for the individual.
2. Service to the customer.
3. Strive for excellence.

An extension of these three basic principles was an atmosphere that fostered "servant leadership" in which many of the bonds and doctrines that can separate people by building walls of hierarchy were abated.

As we strive for growth in whatever we do I encourage you to think on these things. Not merely because they have been tried and proven in a worldly setting but because they are all Biblically founded!

We are commanded to consider each other as more important than ourselves.

We are commanded to take up for each other and help bear each other's burdens.

We are commanded to be fruitful in all that we do. Remembering whom it is that we truly work for.

And, finally, we are commanded to serve each other and tend to the needs of all we encounter without regard to station, class or creed.

Whether you have been called to serve as a parent or you were promoted based on merit to that C.E.O. position you are equal in God's eyes and I encourage you to meet each other on that level. As you strive to become whatever God intended you to be I encourage you to also strive to be more Christ-like considering Him as the first true

"Servant Leader" here on earth. He didn't "lord" His position in the Godhead over those He met ~ He met them where their needs cried out.

And if you are a leader be mindful that you too are serving according to the gifts you were given by the grace of God and you are even more accountable for your actions. The maxim "to whom much has been given will much be required" (Luke 12:48) is nowhere more appropriate than your present day circumstances as a leader.

May you seek to hear God's plan of the day first and always!