

Servant Leadership in a Secular World

On December 5th the mayor and five elected members of the Kernersville Board of Aldermen will be sworn into office. The oath they will take they will pledge to “support and maintain the Constitution and laws of the United States and the State of North Carolina; ... to be faithful and bear true allegiance to the State of North Carolina and to faithfully discharge the duties of the office ... to the best of their ability, so help me God.” The best part of the oath is the last four words, “so help me God.” God’s wisdom far exceeds the best of any of our ability.”



The role of a town alderman is secular. They approve the town budget, render decisions on re-zoning, approve town contracts, sanction area plans and conduct other business on behalf of the town. They represent the community in regional planning efforts and support town staff as they operate their departments for the good of the community. Sounds like secular stuff, doesn't it?

What makes Christian leadership special is the way in which a Christian leader applies faith to a secular world. Faith guides their actions and utilizes God’s direction in an otherwise chaotic world. Christian leadership applies to the family, at work and in the community.

Being in a leadership position provides the opportunity to enhance the lives of others. Jesus Christ is the perfect example of Christian leadership. Too often, however, people in a leadership position rely on their own wisdom instead of God’s. As people gain authority it becomes tempting to rely less on faith and gravitate towards asserting personal authority. The Bible tells us otherwise. *For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves (Luke 22:27).* Serving requires sacrifice. Jesus said, *“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” (Matthew 20:28).* Jesus’ sacrificial leadership changed the world forever.

Christian author Rev. Tim Keller said, “The most powerful kind of leader is one who uses his or her authority ultimately to serve the ones being led.” He continued when he said, “The greatest leaders are the greatest servants.” So, how is your focus on servant leadership? What motivates you?

As we know, God’s greatest commandment is to love others as He loved us. God offers covenant love and faithfulness to us. The word covenant refers to an “agreement or promise often under seal between two or more parties.” Jesus sealed his covenant initially at baptism and then with his blood through his sacrificial crucifixion and triumphant resurrection. This was done because of His love and eternal commitment to you and me. The sacraments of baptism and communion are critical in Christian leadership.

So, as we seek to be leaders in our family, workplace, on the sports field or in the community serve others in love. Then we can lead. I seek to live a life of Christian service in a secular world. Pledge your allegiance, not only to country and state, but especially to God. Honoring the pledge to God will guide you in making the right decisions as you seek to serve others.

Prayer: Dear Lord. We thank you for the opportunity to lead – in our family, workplace and in the community. Let us fix our eyes on you as we seek to serve others in love. Amen.