



Faith Connections

United in Faith Helping
People In Need

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June 2020

Our Mission: Serve this community † Revitalize the Church † Celebrate Christian Unity

Power: Intimidation or Servanthood?

The call to us today is an urgent summons to have Christ's attitude of servanthood. Our power is not based on bullying, domination, or manipulation. Like Jesus, we are to take on "the form of a bond-servant" (Philippians 2:7) and make the towel and the cross the symbols of our daily walk.

To do this, we need to know how a commitment to power through servanthood will actually show itself in our daily relationships. We must make some specific commitments in tangible situations or all of our talk about servanthood is hypocritical.

Three characteristics are necessary to become a person with a servant heart. As we seek to develop these three characteristics in our lives, we will find that we will be able to serve more effectively and to better unleash the power of Christ in our world.

A Servant Looks for the Best in Others

Jesus called a tempestuous Simon "a rock" and changed his life. He called Zacchaeus "a son of Abraham" and had supper with him. He conversed with the adulterous woman at the well and, in doing so, affirmed her worth as a person. His ministry was one of seeing and calling out the best in each person He met. Those who would imitate His style will also look for the best in people. The worldly person looks for imperfections to exploit; Christian power looks for strengths to call forth. Someone made the statement, "See a man as he is, and he will remain as he is. See him as what he can become, and someday he will become it." Anyone who will have a servant's heart will eliminate criticism and negativism (which is exactly what is running rampant in our society today) and see people in the light of what they can become.

A Servant is Genuine

Servant power follows closely on the heels of honesty and transparency. People are liberated in the presence of someone who recognizes his/her own humanity and dares to express it. False piety and the imitation of perfection only serve to drive people away and destroy any hope for real communication.

The truth, according to Scripture, is that all of us are oddballs, misfits, and sinners. And the one who will release the power of selfless love into the world are those who dare to admit their weaknesses -- those who will be genuine and real.

A Servant Takes Hold of "The Real Edge"

The people who will experience servant power will be the ones who, like the Suffering Servant Himself, take hold of individual people and situations and attempt to make a difference there.

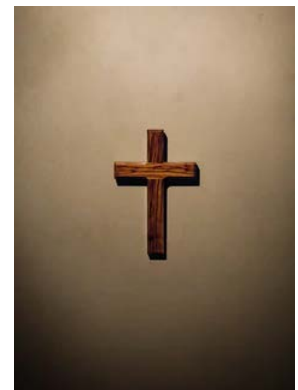
I believe that anyone who tries to call out the best in others, is genuine and real, and who gets intimately involved in specific needs will be on the verge of finding the kind of power explosive enough to move the world toward God.

Many in our culture and society today view this servant concept of power as foolishness. Like those first-century skeptics who scoffed at the cross, they will see servanthood as pitiful and humility as weakness. The dollar, the bomb, and the corporate machine will continue to reign as symbols of modern power. The towel and the cross will be seen as tools only for mad people and fools. But to those of us who have committed our lives to the Word of God know that we have found the only power potent enough to make a new world. And we cling tenaciously to Paul's words to the Corinthians: "But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things that are strong." (1 Corinthians 1:27).

Blessings,
Mel

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Check it Out!

We've made major changes to our website and our Facebook page.

It's now easier to donate to Churches United online. If you go to our Facebook page, you can click on the donate button and give directly to us. You can also go to the donate page on our website and click on the large, blue donate button.

Through the help of the Augustana Web Guild, we've changed the look and content of our website. We've updated the information throughout the page. The new site includes pictures from our events and of our ministries. We have a page just for our Faith Connections newsletter. There are other features, too.

If you have changes or suggestions for the website or Facebook page, contact our social media director, Susan Schwartz at sschwartz@cuqca.org.

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