

LEADERSHIP FORUM

• 2022 •

What's it all About?...

- * **Stimulating** and celebrating personal growth, progress (**1Ti 4:14-15**).
- * **Facilitating** cross-fertilisation (iron-iron, **Pr 27:17**).
- * **Growing** our leadership teams across all areas.
- * **Preparing** for growth in our church and wider sphere.
- * **Helping** you “lay hold of that...” and stay focussed (**Phil 3:12**).
- * **Presenting** everyone mature in Christ (**Col 1:28-29**).

Therefore: Encouraging pairs-triplets to connect, meet, encourage, be accountable, spur each other on!...



LEADING WITH CARE

David Lyon
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What do we mean by Leadership?

NT Leadership

- **Ac 15:22; Heb 13:7,17,24** – “leaders/leading” = **hέγεομαι** = to lead the way, go before; one who carries important responsibility and hence casts a heavy vote (influence)...
- **Ro 12:8, 1Th 5:12, 1Ti 3:4–5,12; 1Ti 5:17** – “lead/leading” = **proistemi** = to be set over, direct, preside, rule over; to care for, give attention to, maintain; to attend to (indicating care and diligence); to be a protector or guardian; to positively impact others by example (influencing people by having a respected reputation built on a solid track-record)....
- **Note:** the link between ‘ruling’ and ‘caring’ (cf 1Ti 3:4–5).

A Grace-Gift

We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us... If it is to lead, do it diligently (Ro 12:6,8)

- Leadership (*proistemi*) is a **gift** (*charisma*), given as an expression of God's **grace** (*charis*). Cf. Eph 4:7.
- Diligence = **spoudé** = with haste, earnestness, diligence, zeal; swiftness to show zealous diligence; to do one's best; elevates the better over the good – the more important over the important – and does so with earnest swiftness (intensity).
- **NT Leadership?** Gracious oversight, care and protection, carried out earnestly, diligently, positively *and with great zeal!*...



Who cares that we care?

- * The world – looks and longs
- * The church – deserves our best
- * **The Lord** – the “chief Shepherd” (1Pe 5:1-4)



“So the Lord’s people will not be like sheep without a shepherd” (Nu 27:17)

JESUS CARES DEEPLY ABOUT HIS CHURCH AND ITS LEADERSHIP



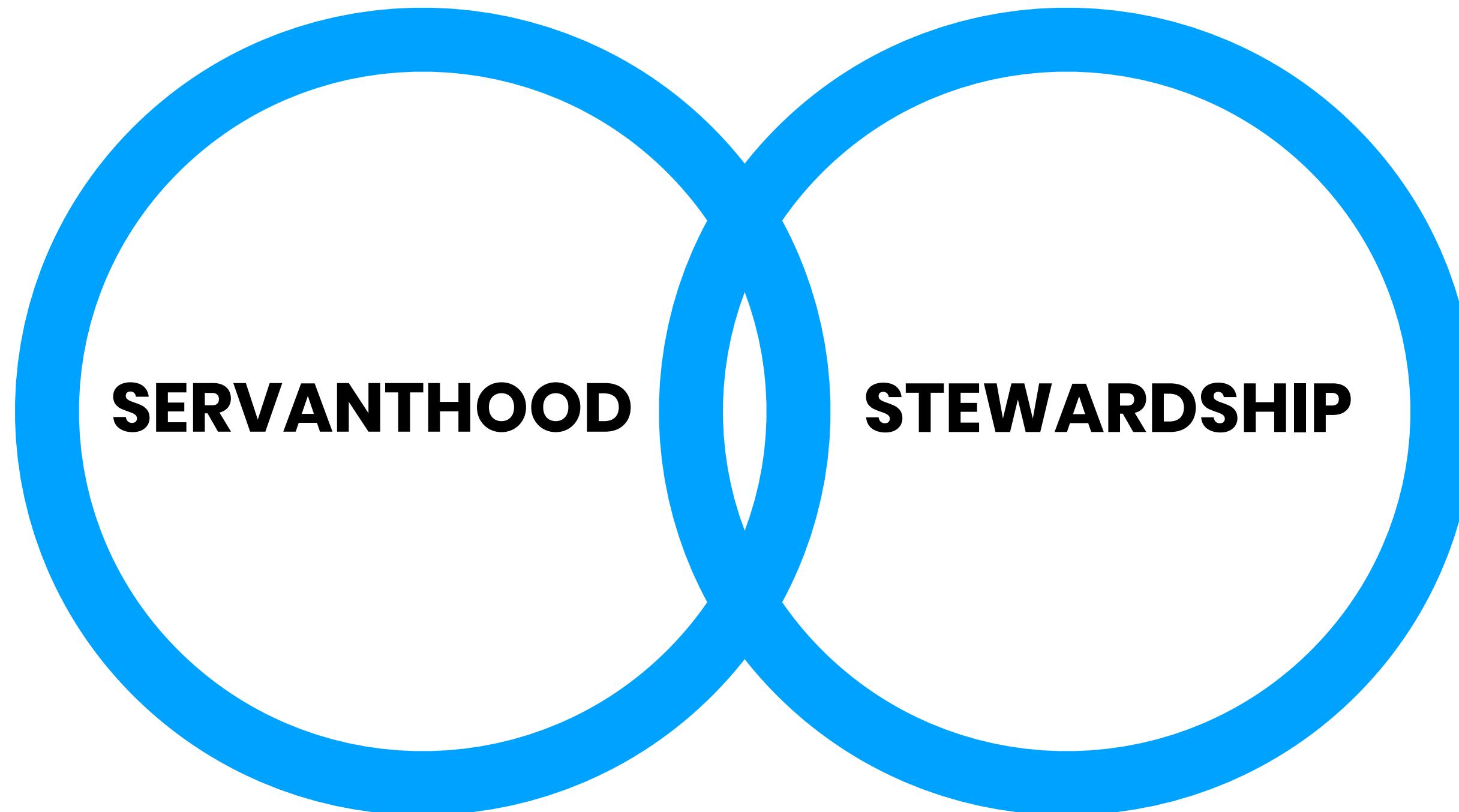
He came for the whole world, yet spent most of His earthly ministry with twelve men! His priority was laying foundations by equipping and preparing them. He poured his life and Spirit into them... then trusted them to continue His ministry!

LEADERSHIP?

- * Always a verb (action), never a noun (label, title).
- * Great weight, great reward (Lk 12:48, 1Ti 5:17-20, 1Pe 5:4).
- * Expressing God's grace and care.
- * The most significant task and responsibility!



At the Heart? 2 CORE CHARACTERISTICS



SERVANTHOOD is the bedrock of leadership *character*, and the foundation of all leadership and ministry for the Lord. It is epitome of the very attitude of Christ.

STEWARDSHIP is the understanding that everything we have *is on loan*, entrusted to us by God. It is the key to growth, and the way Jesus handled His task and commission.



SERVANTHOOD AND STEWARDSHIP GO HAND-IN-HAND...

And all other God-pleasing leadership attitudes and attributes (integrity, care, bravery, clarity, diligence, zeal...) will *inevitably flow* from **this twin heartbeat**.

Revealed in Christ

- “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but **to serve**, and to give His life—a ransom for many.” (Mk 10:45, Mt 20:28)
- He emptied Himself by assuming the form of **a slave** (Phil 2:7)
- “All things have been **entrusted** to Me by My Father.” (Mt 11:27, Lk 10:22)
- Jesus knew that the Father had **given everything into His hands**, that He had come from God, and that He was going back to God. (Jn 13:3)
- “I have not lost one of those **You have given** Me.” (Jn 18:9)



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SERVANTHOOD



Defines ‘Ministry’

- All biblical “ministry” is characterised by *service* and *servanthood*.
- Key words: **diakoneō** (to serve, wait on, help, care for), **diakonia** (ministry, service), **diakonos** (servant, minister, deacon).
- *Before anything else*, Paul is *first* a servant (*diakonos*) (**1Co 3:5, Eph 3:7**, 2Co 6:4, Col 1:23) and a slave (**doulos**) (**Ro 1:1**, Tit 1:1). He knew of no higher calling!
- Likewise: Moses (Josh 1:1, Heb 3:5), Joshua (Josh 24:29), David (Ps 78:70–71), Peter (2Pe 1:1), James (Jas 1:1), Timothy (Phil 1:1), etc...
- All were **servant-leaders**, receiving the **ultimate reward!** (**Mt 25:21**)

Redefines ‘Greatness’

- Our unshakeable Kingdom celebrates greater, higher ('upside-down?') values...
- **Mt 23:11-12 • Mk 9:33-35, 10:42-45 • Lk 22:24-27**
- Greatness = Servanthood = Greatness
- Our (God-given) desire for usefulness, value, destiny and 'greatness' is satisfied in *serving*. The last is first, the servant is greatest, the humble are exalted.
- It's actually more than serving - it's **being a servant**.

Q: What does it mean to be a “servant” of Christ?

The descent to Greatness!?

Make
your own
attitude
(mindset, way of
thinking/judging,
inner perspective)
that of Christ Jesus, who
existing in the form of God
did not consider equality with
God something to be used for his
own advantage (“to be grasped, held
on to, to cling to”). Instead he emptied
himself by assuming the form of a slave...
he humbled himself by becoming obedient to
the point of death – even to death on a cross.
Phil 2:5-9

NOT GRASPING – stop holding/clinging on to anything (labels, status, reputation?) too tightly; using things for your advantage; claiming ownership...

EMPTYING – let go of anything that fills you but can never *fulfil* you (agendas, opinions, criticisms, self-effort?)...

HUMBLING – deal ruthlessly with pride, jealousy, competition; have a sober, faith-filled self-assessment...

OBEDIENCE – bring everything under His Lordship; surrender heart, soul, mind and strength to Him...

DEATH – to self, over and over again!...

“IN SOME WAYS WE WOULD PREFER TO HEAR JESUS'S CALL TO DENY FATHER AND MOTHER, HOUSES AND LAND FOR THE SAKE OF THE GOSPEL THAN HIS WORD TO WASH FEET. RADICAL SELF-DENIAL GIVES A FEEL OF ADVENTURE... BUT IN SERVICE WE MUST EXPERIENCE **THE MANY LITTLE DEATHS OF GOING BEYOND OURSELVES**”

RICHARD J. FOSTER
‘CELEBRATION OF DISCIPLINE’

Q: When have you experienced these?



Many little deaths (of leadership)?

- Going the extra mile when you're tired?...
- Celebrating another's success when you feel you deserve the credit?...
- Preferring someone else when it's not what you'd prefer!?...
- Choosing patience when you feel overlooked?...
- Turning the other cheek when you feel injured or insulted?...
- Standing aside to let others shine and succeed?...
- Absorbing another's pain when you're also hurting?...
- Choosing silence when you long to defend yourself against criticism?...
- Preferring the pleasure of God to the praises of men!



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STEWARDSHIP



Enlisted and Entrusted!

- “The earth is the Lord’s and **everything** in it” (Ps 24:1) - *including* our churches, our responsibilities, our burdens and our leadership or ministry. All these are gracious gifts from Him.
- We’ve been called to His purpose and trusted with His mission, His word, His power, His people... **So we must be faithful stewards, taking really good care of our entrustments.**
- The call to leaders is to prove loyal, faithful and trustworthy. The Lord still asks: “Whom shall I send? Who will go for me?...”
- “From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.” (**Lk 12:48**)

Taking care in God's House

- **Oikonomos** – manager, steward; one given responsibility by the owner to take care of an area of the household (often a slave or freed-man).
- **Oikonomia** – management, direction, administration; stewardship.
- **Pisteuo** and **paratheke** (entrusted, deposited, relied upon) and **pistos** (faithful, reliable, trustworthy)

The NT uses all these words in these general ways, and specifically to describe the work of elders, apostles and all followers of Jesus!...

The NT understanding

1Co 4:1 This, then, is how you ought to regard us: as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed.

1Th 2:4 we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel.

1Ti 1:11 ...the gospel concerning the glory of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me.

1Ti 1:12 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service

1Ti 6:20 Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care.

2Ti 1:14 Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

2Ti 2:2. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.

1Pe 5:3 not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock

Three Tests of Trust

Luke 16:10-12 Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?"

Inevitable consequences. The 'test' comes *first*...

- Small things >> Bigger things
- Material things >> True riches
- Delegated things >> Your own things

Q: What are these things?

What have you been entrusted with?...

Can we be Trusted?

- **Small Things?** – keeping your promises, your current area of responsibility, timekeeping, law-keeping, tidiness, daily devotions, what you eat and drink, setting an example, what you say, consistency...
- **Material Things?** – budgets, offerings, care of possessions, avoiding debt, greed, love of money, paying bills on time, being generous....
NB: Our handling of money determines whether we're entrusted with "true riches" (people, revelation...)
- **Someone Else's Things?** – the tithe, your body, delegated tasks-responsibilities, people entrusted to you, revelation you've received, call and commission, gifts and talents...



THE PARABLES OF THE TALENTS (Mt 25:14ff, Lk 19:12ff) ASSURE US:

The Lord sees how we handle what's entrusted to us, and enlarges our responsibilities when we're faithful. **Growth depends on stewardship.**



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Above all, maintain an intense love for each other, since love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Based on the gift each one has received, use it to serve others, as good managers of the varied grace of God.

1 Peter 4:8-10

“Let the Body be the Body”





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Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you. Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them (“throw yourself into your tasks”), so that everyone may see your progress.



1 Timothy 4:14-15

Some Practicals?...

- Put your gifts to work - invest your talents.
- Nurture, steward and throw yourself in - let us see your progress.
- Be faithful in small, material and delegated things - again and again.
- Look after your body, find rhythms of rest - prepare for longevity.
- Serve and honour God's people - with no sense of ownership.
- **Lead with zeal - stir up a storm!...**

Q: What are your takeaways from all this?