



Blueprint for the Church:

Live the Gospel!

Small Group Study Guide



1 CORINTHIANS 3:5-9 Servant Leadership

A foundational part of the **Blueprint for the Church** is having a right and Biblical perspective on the role of leadership. In this section Paul begins to give a clear picture of the role of leaders in the church as well as a right perspective the congregation is to have of those leaders.

1. To begin, we need to observe and properly understand who Paul is talking about in the illustration he gives in this text.
 - Who is the one who plants?
 - Who is the one who waters?
 - Who is the one who appoints the servants their task?
 - Who is the one who causes the growth?
 - Who is the field?
2. What types of work in the church does one do who plants? Why is it important that there be those who plant?
3. What types of work in the church does one do who waters? Why is it important that there be those who water?
4. The word “servant” speaks of one who performs a menial task; a common worker. Based on this understanding, why is it foolish to boast in or exalt either the one who plants or the one who waters?
5. As you read this passage, who is the only one that is deemed worthy of praise? When the church keeps this focus, how does it eliminate the chance of division and strife from developing?

Don't Forget:

Discuss the Sermon Notes from this week

6. This section speaks to the need for every member in the church body to have a right and Biblical perspective on leadership. Look up the following references and then write a brief statement of what true Biblical leadership is to look like: 1 Corinthians 3:5-9; Luke 22:24-27; Matthew 20:25-28; and 1 Peter 5:1-5.

7. "To be a servant does not mean the abdication of leadership, nor, on the other hand, does it mean to become everyone's errand boy."¹ What then does it mean to be a servant leader?

¹Gordon D. Fee,
*The First Epistle
to the Corinthians*
(Grand Rapids:
Eerdmans Publishing,
1987), pp. 135.

8. What is the difference in showing appreciation for and encouragement to leaders and faithful workers in the church compared to honoring or lifting those leaders up?

9. In what ways can a preacher, teacher or other church leader fall into the trap of having a high or exalted view of their worth in the church? In what ways do church members potentially feed this dangerous mindset?

10. "All too often those 'in charge' be they [pastors, elders, deacons] 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."²

²Gordon D. Fee,
*The First Epistle
to the Corinthians*
(Grand Rapids:
Eerdmans Publishing,
1987), pp. 135.

BIBLE MEMORY:

*So then neither
the one who plants
nor the one that waters
is anything,
but God
who causes the growth.*

1 Corinthians 3:7

- Is it wrong to speak of the church you are a member of as "your" church? Explain your answer.
- When a leader in the church sees the church as "his", what might be some of the "secular structures" he might use to operate the church?
- For a church that has a congregational form of government, how is it more likely for the people to see the church as belonging "to the people"?
- When the people of the church see the church as belonging to them, what might be some of the "special privileges" they might think they have?

For Next Week:
Prayerfully meditate and study the following: 1 Corinthians 3:10-15