

# The Life Challenge

*"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10*

**Sermon Series:** Body Building  
**Title:** Servant Leadership  
**Speaker:** Steve Berg  
**Text:** Mark 10:35-45  
**Date:** May 27, 2018



## WARM-UP

Rate the following professions/vocations in order, from most trusted to least trusted: (Research based on a poll: Answer below)

- Nurses
- Politicians
- Church leaders
- Lawyers
- Accountants
- Firefighters
- Police Officers

Are leaders born or made?

What roles at South Abbotsford Church, in your mind, are identified as "leaders"?

## DISCUSSION

**REVIEW: Jesus Calls Us to Servant Leadership.** Re-read Mark 10:35-35

### Qualifications out of this text:

- Jesus' Kingdom operates on different principles than the world operates on.
- Greatness in leadership means service as a first principle.
- It's an upside-down Kingdom:
  - ⇒ A leader must become a slave (bond-servant).
  - ⇒ A leader must be last, not first.
- To serve, you must give up everything.

### How the Early Church operated:

- **Emergence of Elders as Leaders (Pastoral oversight)**
  - ⇒ Established elders as leaders: Acts 14:21-23
  - ⇒ A plurality of elders: I Timothy 5:17
  - ⇒ Apostle Peter addresses elders in Asia Minor: I Peter 1:1; 5:1
- **Instruction to the congregation in their relationship to their leaders:**
  - ⇒ When sick, call the elders – James 5:14
  - ⇒ Churches should provide financial support for their elders – I Timothy 5:17-18
  - ⇒ Select elders with proper qualifications – Titus 1:5-9; I Timothy 3:1-7; I Peter 3:10
  - ⇒ Protect elders from false accusations; discipline elders who sin; restore fallen elders – I Timothy 5:19-22
  - ⇒ Be disciplined in the church: e.g. with young men and submission – I Peter 5:5
  - ⇒ Esteem and honor your leaders: I Thessalonians 5:12-13
- **Instruction to Elders in their relationship to the congregation:**
  - ⇒ Encourage believers through teaching and instructing in sound doctrine – Titus 1:7, 9; Acts 20:28-31
  - ⇒ Guard the church from false teachers and doctrine – Acts 20:31
  - ⇒ Lead with willingness as you oversee the congregation: I Peter 5:1-2
  - ⇒ Don't be domineering; be a shepherd – I Peter 5:3; Acts 20:28
  - ⇒ Work hard: help the needy, be generous, be alert – Acts 20:35

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## DISCUSSION

### A Tour of Leadership in the MB Church:

- **An Organic Spiritual Process: 1860-1950's**
  - ⇒ Leadership was always multiple
  - ⇒ Leaders were selected from the congregation according to giftedness and service
  - ⇒ Strong congregational involvement in deliberations and decision-making
  - ⇒ Servanthood and mutuality was stressed
- **Local Church Governance Shift:** (After about 1950's)
  - ⇒ Influences for change – professionalization of the ministry; urbanization resulted in disconnection compared to agrarian community; a more centralized form of leadership.
  - ⇒ A church council based on a **representative form of leadership** – e.g. Christian Education, youth, music, deacons etc.
  - ⇒ Authority shifted away from a collective leadership toward a paid pastor providing watchcare and leadership for the congregation.
- **Recent trends:** (from a representative style of leadership to a **Board of Elders**)
  - ⇒ Desire to re-establish the eldership pattern
  - ⇒ Desire for more responsible authoritative leadership
  - ⇒ Selection of elders based on giftedness and leadership talent

### What about Leadership at South Abbotsford?

- We are under Christ's headship – Matthew 18:20
- We are all ministers called to serve Christ - calling & giftedness – Ephesians 4:7, 11-12
- We are brothers and sisters – fraternal aspect of the family – Philemon 15-17
- We are a humble-servant community – Philippians 2:3,4

### Applications and Ponderings:

- A church is both an *organism* and an *organization*. Is one primary and the other secondary? If so, which is which? Why do you think so?
- Describe three key essentials of servant leadership? Why would you choose those three?
- Are the terms "servants" and "leaders" synonymous? Leaders are servants; servants are leaders?
- If leaders are servants, who then is *not* a leader in the congregation at South Abbotsford?

Firefighters – 77%; Nurses – 69%; Police Officers – 46%; Accountants – 34%; Church leaders – 24%; Lawyers – 16%; Politicians – 6%