



# CAPITOL COMMISSION™

## The Discipline of Service (Mark 10:45)

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Dave DePue / PO Box 1775, Topeka, KS 66603 / dave.depue@capitolcom.org

*There are a multitude of servant leaders, persons of authority, working in the Kansas Capitol and in business, government and service careers across our state and nation. The concepts of authority and servanthood seem to be at odds with each other; a paradox! Jesus is the paragon of a servant leader. “For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45). The Apostle Paul commended the brethren from the churches of Macedonia. They first gave themselves to the Lord and to us (2Corinthians 8:5a). Paul also urged those in the Capital of Rome to offer their spiritual service, as a gift of worship rather than being conformed to the culture of the day (Romans 12:1). Have you had the opportunity to watch an effective servant leader in action?*

### INTRODUCTION

Jesus gave us the cross as the sign of submission and the towel as a sign of service.<sup>1</sup> He taught and demonstrated servant leadership but His Disciples were slow to catch on! *“An argument arose among them as to which of them was the greatest”* (Luke 9:46). Jesus rebuked them with the statement that the greatest leader must be the greatest servant. He later gave them a powerful lesson when they missed the opportunity to serve at their last supper together. Jesus picked up a towel and washed their dusty feet.

**Can you tell of a humble task that you did in service?**

### LINES OF AUTHORITY REARRANGED

*John 13:14 “If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet”*

The Spiritual Discipline of Service gives us liberty to avoid the cultural games of self promotion and assumed authority. We need not participate in the chicken pen “pecking order” style of bullying. Jesus condemned their rulers who counted it as service to manipulate and control the people (Luke 22:25). Authority should follow function rather than status. We may be given authority because we respond to a call as did Debra (Judges 4:8). Another may be given authority due to mastery, talent, or skill (Daniel 2:48).

**In what ways have you have received authority?**

### SELF-RIGHTEOUS SERVICE

This service typically comes through human effort. It is marked by immense energy, planning, and showcasing. It is selective and results are trumpeted. Sometimes the service is insensitive to individuals, fracturing community. What clearly identifies self-righteous service is the spotlight and glorification of the leader (Acts 5:2). **Have you seen this in operation?**

### TRUE SERVICE

The true servant welcomes all opportunities to serve, but recognizes priorities. He doesn’t fear the stage and attention but does not serve for applause. The lifestyle of this servant is to build individuals and community. (Luke 10:33). **How have you been a Good Samaritan?**

### SERVICE IN THE MARKETPLACE<sup>2</sup>

1. Service is a lifestyle, not an act. It is typically only seen by God and the recipient while sending ripples of joy through the community (Acts 9:39).

2. We serve by guarding the reputation of others (Titus 3:2). **Do you “chill” the mean or slanderous talk of others, building individuals up where possible?**

3. **Does your pride let another serve you (John 13:8)?**

4. Common courtesy and respect is service (Titus 3). All cultures have high expectations of courtesy. **Is it your habit to give complimentary responses as: “yes, please”, “no, thank you” and to offer honest appreciation?**

5. Our culture seems to have replaced hospitality by building motels and restaurants. **Do you entertain guests and focus on them while they are with you (1Timothy 3:2)?**

6. **Are you striving to be a more effective listener, bearing another’s burdens, weeping or grieving with them, offering God’s hope (Matthew 11:30)?**

### A PRAYER

Father God: Please help me be a blessing to others, both great and small. Bless me in my service to the people of Kansas, and to You! (Ezekiel 34:26). I pray in Jesus’ Name. Amen.

<sup>1</sup> Richard Foster, Celebration of Discipline. (Harper) 1998. p126.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid. pgs 134-139.