

Word Notes Sunday 21/06/15 Service and Leadership

Summary (read this bit out to remind cell members what was said on Sunday)

Key Texts: 1 Cor 12

In the Old Testament we can find examples of leadership and service with clear hierarchical structure – Moses and his leaders over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens (Ex 18:21), David and his Mighty Men (the 3 and the 30 2 Sam 23:8-39 & 1 Chron 11:1-47). The main “leader” had lieutenants as well as commanding an army.

Jesus has some disciples closer to him than others and while this was not apparently and hierarchical arrangements those closer did tend to play greater roles in the establishment and growth newly formed church.

But what of the “Church age” in which we live - should there be some who have authority in leadership? Is there a place for “lieutenants”? Are we all called to service in the body?

It’s clear that Jesus has no time for anyone who would “lord it” over the body – both in example and teaching Jesus directs us to servant leadership (Mark 10:35-45). Even so in the key text for this study Paul talks about desiring the higher gifts in the context of service and leadership within the body. From Acts 6 it’s clear that the apostles were taking a leadership role and that they needed “lieutenants” like Stephen to oversee particular activities – and that he was chose because he was full of the Spirit. Maybe there’s a clue there – who you are is more important that what you do. That service comes before leadership and all is directed to the building up of the body, which I take to mean both its growth in numbers and in maturity.

Application (this is the bit where cell members get to participate. Lead discussions around these points)

Discuss the key text and with particular reference to these questions:

- Identify the various roles and gifts Paul mentions. Who is qualified to take these roles of service?
- How might leaders and lieutenants be identified, nurtured and released in a fellowship like NCC? Who would you encourage to step up to greater responsibility in NCC?
- What role do we all have in “the building up of the church?” – does it take a special gifting to move equipment and set up at the Academy? What about helping in young people’s work? How about being a leader in those areas – does that need something extra?
- How might you identify and nurture your own specific gifts and calling?

Pray about your role within NCC. Ask God to help you find where you fit into the body.

Talk to your Cell Leader or any of the NCC Leaders about getting more involved – either as a team helper or to grow into leadership of a team. Specific needs are Meeting set up, Young people (from Bubbles to youth), Cell Leadership, Welcoming and Stewarding but don’t be limited by this list – there is also IMPAct Street Prayer Team. Town Pastors, Prayer Shield and many more roles in the body to get your teeth into.

Witness (this is the bit where the cell talks and prays about how to share the Good News)

What opportunities are there over the summer for your Cell to reach out to neighbours and friends?