

Good Friday afternoon, New South Family. Welcome to the 31st edition of the Weekly Word – this for the week ending January 31, 2020.

-----**The Critical**-----

Announcements

1) Pastors / Elders / Appointees Conference Report Forms are due today. *If you are a New South Conference ministerial candidate, a local pastor, elder, deacon, and/or are under conference appointment, please complete and return your form today.* [You can find blank, fill-able forms here.](#) Thank you to the majority of you who have accomplished this.

2) A Couple Emergency Situations... both involving displacements of many people, some of them Free Methodist. One is in Congo due to ethnic cleansing, and the other in the Philippines related to a volcano. Read about these needs and our Bishops' call to [pray and give by clicking here.](#)

3) Denominational Church Report Forms should have been sent to every church / pastor this week. If you are a pastor and did not receive two e-mails from Theresa Portwood involving our annual report to the FM Ministry Center, please let me know ASAP.

4) Our NSC Conference Web Site is back up and running. For lots of forms, resources and general information, just click here. Also, if you have ideas for how to improve the site, please let me know.

Church of the Week: Please keep the Oakdale FMC in Jackson (KY) with pastor Mark Driskill in your prayers this week.

Conference / Superintendent's Calendar (all times eastern)

February 2-5:	Area Bishop and Superintendents (ABS) meeting in Nashville
February 7:	FM History and Polity class begins at WFMC
February 13:	DL Zoom, 9:30a
February __:	Strategy Day
February __:	MEG Zoom, 7:00p
March 12:	DL Zoom, 9:30a
March 20:	District Leaders – Wilmore, 2:00 – 5:00 p
March 20:	BOA – Wilmore, 6:00 – 10:00 p
March 21:	MEG/MAC – Wilmore, 8:00 a - noon
March 31-April 2:	Global Overseers Team (GOT) - Indianapolis
April 9:	DL Zoom, 9:30a
April 26-28:	ABS - Tampa
May 14:	DL Zoom, 9:30a
May 29-30:	New South Annual Conference, Oakdale Christian Academy
June 7-9:	ABS - Indianapolis
June 15-20:	NSC Teen Camp
June 11-14:	NSC Family Camp
June 22-26:	NSC Kids' Camp
August 9-11:	ABS – Baltimore
August 25-28:	Starting Strong for new pastors - Indianapolis
September 23-25:	New Room Conference, Nashville, TN

And now...

-----**The Important**-----

Resources, Articles and Attachments

1) **Jesus' Leadership Style** – a good article from the Christian Leadership Academy is attached to the end of the newsletter here. A worthwhile reminder!

2) **A Great Revival Series of Messages** from Wilmore's revival week speaker, Nazarene evangelist, Gary Henecke, [can be found by clicking here.](#)

Job Openings

At this point, we have a pastor or interim pastor in every NSC church, although those interim situations are, well, interim.

However, [if you click here](#), you will find job opening listings at the FMC Human Resources web site.

February Birthdays (*that we know of)

Terri Kendall – 4 – Elder, serving outside the denomination in Indiana

Reed Wilbanks – 8 – Elder, Lead Pastor, Church 180, Rock Hill, SC

Bobby Wheeler – 10 – Elder, Retired, but Interim at Bratcher's Crossroads, McMinnville, TN

Dean Cook – 24 – Elder, Retired, Wilmore, KY

Annette Diddle – 29 (my wife ☺)

*I would love to know the birthdays of all those related to the NSC who receive this communique – pastors, elders, delegates, special friends, etc. Please send month and day to Timothy at newsouthconference@gmail.com

This Week's Passage, Quote and Joke

Passage: This Sunday, following great revival services with Nazarene evangelist Gary Henecke, the Wilmore congregation is stuck with me again. ☺ We'll be looking at 1 Corinthians 13 and at just how love is the greatest of these...

On Sunday night, Wilmore will get the treat of hearing from Pastor Andrea while I'm in meetings with Bishop Cowart and his other area Superintendents in Nashville.

Quote: "God made all of His creation to give. He made the sun, the moon, the stars, the clouds, the earth, the plants to give. He also designed His supreme creation, man, to give. But fallen man is the most reluctant giver in all of God's creation." ~ John MacArthur

Joke: Today, another joke from Mitford's Uncle Billy:

"Well, sir, this feller was sent off to Alaska to do 'is work, and he was gone f'r a long time, don't you know, and he got this letter from his wife, and he looked real worried an' all. His buddy said, 'What's th' matter, you got trouble at home?' An' he said, 'Oh, law, looks like we got a freak in th' family. My wife says I won't recognize little Billy when I git home, he's growed another foot.'"

Blessings on your weekend and day of worship.

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Jesus Leadership Style: Ten Perspectives for Christian Leaders

The Challenge of Jesus' Leadership Style

As with most things, Jesus turned leadership upside down. He taught the disciples that in the Kingdom they were not to lead people as those in the world did; they were to be radically different.

The leadership style that Jesus taught and modelled was neither about command and control, nor status and power. He did not teach techniques, but grew character — a character centered on a Christ-like servant heart. He modelled servanthood and challenged his disciples to follow that example — to be like him. From the Kingdom perspective, this makes leadership modelled on Jesus and centered on his indwelling character superior to all secular leadership styles.

It shall not be so among you ...

Where do Christians learn about leading people? For the most part, Christian colleges teach very little to Christian leaders about how to lead people. This forces us to fall back on information from outside the Kingdom, and to apply secular leadership styles -not Jesus' leadership style. "Business gurus", with worldly outlooks, have developed these styles with the aim of maximizing the benefit gained from the "human resource". Our role models become men and women of power and status in the world.

Jesus pointed the disciples to leaders in the world and told them, "It shall not be so among you" (Matthew 20:26). So, from where do we draw our attitudes and leadership practices; from the world or from the Kingdom? "It shall not be so among you..."

The greatest among you ...

The world's conception is that those who lead are in some way better than the people whom they lead. They gain status because they exercise power over others to achieve their goals. All of which leads to rewards, benefits and preferential treatment. This does not impress Jesus at all. He took the Scribes and Pharisees to task for such behavior (Matthew 23:1-11), showing that behavior reflects the nature of the heart (Luke 6:43-45).

Jesus leadership style is diametrically opposed to that of the world. He declared that in the Kingdom, greatness belongs to the servant and that distinction grows from child-like humility (Matthew 18:4). He taught that leaders were to serve others, not to be served by them.

That you also should do just as I have done to you ...

Jesus heart was a servant heart (Philippians 2:5-11), from which his behavior flowed. This heart led him to act for the benefit and growth of others. This he demonstrated when he confronted the disciples through the visual parable of the foot washing. He challenged the disciples to follow his example (John 13:12-17), a challenge for leaders that echoes down through the centuries to us today.

The lesson? Christian leaders must center their characters on a Christ-like servant heart, not serving themselves with the benefits of position, power and status, emulating leaders in the world. On the contrary, Jesus calls us, as his leaders, to grow a servant heart. He calls us to follow his example with humility, serving those whom we lead; enabling them to achieve the purpose to which God calls them is our goal. Why? Because in the context of the Kingdom of God, they are not our tools but together, we collaboratively serve God and His purposes. This is Jesus' leadership style.

The wisdom of this world is folly

Jesus leadership style, because it is both the way of the Kingdom of God (Matthew 18:4) and the essence of the character of Christ (Matthew 20:28), matches nothing in the world. It is radically different to all natural cultures in all countries and all organizations. It is not the way of the world, whose wisdom is folly in the eyes of God (1 Corinthians 3:19). It is the way of Christ and we must follow that way, however divergent it may seem from all we know or think or have learned.

Living Out Jesus Leadership Style

What might such a Christ-centered, servant hearted leadership look like? Briefly, we will summarize ten perspectives on leadership, which will help you to daily live out a Christ-centered leadership, modelled on Jesus leadership style.

Nurture a Christ-like servant-hearted character

Jesus had a sacrificial servant heart that was focused on the needs of others. Ask yourself “How can I live out Christ’s servant hearted character, putting first concern for those whom I lead?”

Focus on others

Serve others so they can grow and be effective in God’s service. Ask yourself “What else can I do to enable each person I lead to achieve his or her full potential?”

Take responsibility for understanding

Effective communication is essential. So take responsibility and ask yourself, “What can I do to ensure that others have understood me and that I have understood them?”

Consider the individual

Make cooperation more effective by developing the best relationships you can with those you lead. Ask yourself, “How can I improve the manner in which we work together by adjusting how I interact with each person?”

Nurture the character

Encourage others to live out Christ-like values. Ask yourself, “How can I affirm those who are honest and truthful, and how can I better reflect Christ’s love by treating everyone with honesty and dignity?”

Model the way

Like it or not, you are a role model to those whom you lead, and actions speak louder than words. Ask yourself, “How can I make my values to be more Christ-like and live them out in front of those whom I lead?”

Inspire a shared vision

A shared vision of purpose and outcome, which is owned by all, is the key to achieving the goal. Ask yourself, “How can I engage my team to build a shared vision that encourages greater levels of cooperation?”

Challenge the process

It is always possible to be more effective, making it easier to achieve the desired outcomes. Ask yourself, “How can I encourage my team to continually find better ways of doing things?”

Enable others to achieve

Our goal is to enable others to achieve. Ask yourself, “How can I better equip and empower those whom I lead to more easily reach fulfill our shared vision?”

Encourage the heart

Knowing that one is valued is an important encouragement for everyone. Ask yourself, “How can I publicly and genuinely recognize the value of individuals and their achievements?”