

**SESSION 3**



**A REAL MAN BETTERS GOD'S  
WORLD: *HIS COMMUNITY***

**B**

# 1. We Best Lead by Serving Others

A. Jesus came as a servant—He came to give His life. As men, our mission is to serve one another to give of ourselves.

**1 John 3:16:**

“By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.”

**Mark 10:43-44:**

“...whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant; and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all.”

- We are to give our lives not only in service to Him but to our fellow man, including those in the church and outside it.

**Mark 12:31:**

“The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

*“God does not need your good works, but your neighbor does.” - Martin Luther*

*“Christians are called to be an alternate city within every earthly city.”  
- Tim Keller*

- A good definition of servant leadership is *putting others first and seeking their welfare above your own.*

*“Loving the first place is not fitting to us, even though it may be among the nations. Such a passion becomes a tyrant. It continually hinders even great men.” - John Chrysostom, Homilies on the Gospel of Saint Matthew, 65.4*

B. Unfortunately, leadership today is equated with power and authority.

However, Jesus Christ flips this model on its head.

- Jesus’s life and teachings show us that we are to lead with love, compassion, and a servant’s heart.
- Sadly, we have many celebrities but very few servants in the church today. We have a few men who want to take the towel and basin and wash their feet.

*“Everyone wants to be a servant until it’s time to act like one...” - Anonymous*

- Paul reminds us that our attitude is to be like Christ in that we consider others better than ourselves.

**Philippians 2:3-5:**

“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus...”

- The hallmark trait of Philippians 2:3 leadership is humility. Servant leadership begins and ends in humility. So, what does this look like?

## 2. Practice Compassion

### A. We demonstrate humility through courageous compassion.

*“There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up.”*

- John Holmes

- Showing compassion means being willing to listen, care for, and help those in need.
- When we show compassion to hurting people, we serve them just as **Jesus** did.

#### **Matthew 25:35-36:**

“For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger, and you invited me in, I needed clothes, and you clothed me, I was sick, and you looked after me, I was in prison, and you came to visit me.”

### B. Compassion is kindness in action. Compassion without action is pity and is a telling sign about the depth of our faith.

*“Don’t tell me I have a friend in Jesus until you show me I have a friend in you.”*

- Ken Medema

- When we demonstrate compassion, we demonstrate the reality of our faith in a life-changing way.
- Not exercising compassion is a sign of a cold heart and a lack of **love**.  
*“You have no right to preach the gospel to a hungry person. If we won’t meet their felt need, we don’t have the right to meet their spiritual need...”* - Dr. Randel Everett
- Compassion starts with love and results from the Spirit at work in our lives. It’s something God does in us and through us. It’s not something we can do for ourselves.

### C. How do we grow in compassion? We pray for God to give us his heart for the lost, the hurting, the poor, and neighbors. We pray, “*Lord, break my heart for what breaks your heart.*”

- When we meet somebody in need or hurting, pray this prayer:  
*“Lord, help me to feel what you feel for them. Give me the compassion they need and that I can’t have otherwise.”*
- We pray for God to do through us and in us what we cannot do apart from his grace.
- God, who is good to hear our prayers, will **answer**, and then we must **respond!**

## 3. Be Kind

### A. Kindness is king.

- The Bible commands us to be kind:

#### **Ephesians 4:32:**

“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.”

- The Bible says love is **kind**:  
**1 Corinthians 13:4:**  
“Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant.”
- The Bible tells us that kindness is a benefit to ourselves:  
**Proverbs 11:17:**  
“A man who is kind benefits himself, but a cruel man hurts himself”
- The Bible tells us that as followers of **Jesus**, we are to “*put on kindness.*”  
– Colossians 3:12.  
*“There are three ways to ultimate success:  
The first way is to be kind.  
The second way is to be kind.  
The third way is to be kind.”*  
- Mr. Rogers

**B. We are to imitate the kindness of God.**

- A good definition of kindness: *kindness is a supernaturally charitable orientation of our hearts toward other people, especially when they don't deserve it and don't love us in return.*
- God himself is kind in this way. His kindness is meant to lead people (those who have rejected Him) to repentance (Rom 2:4).
- We imitate God's kindness by loving not only those we want to love but our **enemies** as well.  
*“Love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.” - Jesus*
- Our kindness reflects the heart of God:  
**Ephesians 4:32:**  
“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.”

**C. Being kind is not the same thing as being nice.**

- At times, kindness may not be pleasant. In fact, it may feel more like a blow to the head:  
**Psalms 141:5:**  
“Let a righteous man strike me — it is a kindness; let him rebuke me — it is oil for my head; let my head not refuse it”
- Peter told his listeners that they had *killed the Messiah*. He exposed their sin and desperately wanted them to repent. His message wasn't pleasant, but it was kind. Peter was pointing them to life.  
**Acts 2:36-38:**  
“Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified... Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Brothers, what shall we do?’ And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins...”

- Remember, a **kind** physician often must cut deep to get the cancer.  
*“Say what you mean. Mean what you say. Just don’t be mean when you say it.”*  
 - Chris Harper

## 4. Take Action

### A. Compassion is kindness in action. Professing Jesus but not living like Jesus is a dead faith.

#### James 2:26:

“For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.”

- The key here is **empowerment**. What the Bible calls “building one another up.” (1 Thessalonians 5:11).
- When we **empower** someone else, we encourage and support them to use their gifts and talents to make a positive difference in the world.  
*“As we look ahead into the next century, leaders will be those who empower others.” - Bill Gates*

*“Leading well is not about enriching yourself- it’s about empowering others.”*  
 - John Maxwell

### B. Jesus is our model. It is His love that compels us to love and empower others. He told His disciples,

#### John 13:34:

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”

- Jesus lived and died as the supreme example of humble, self-sacrificing action (Luke 22:27; Matthew 20:28; Philippians 2:6–7; 2 Corinthians 8:9; John 13:1–17).

#### Philippians 2:6–8:

“Christ served others by emptying Himself of His exalted position and empowering others (His disciples), *“taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!”*

### C. Imitating Christ means not seeking our own good but the good of others:

#### Romans 15:2:

“We should all be concerned about our neighbor and the good things that will build his faith.”

- Our freedom in Christ allows us to build up and **benefit** others (1 Corinthians 10:24). Paul did not seek his “own benefit, but the benefit of many, so that they may be saved.” – 1 Corinthians 10:33
- Will you take Paul’s challenge to heart and empower those around you?

#### Philippians 2:4:

“Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”

*“If our churches shut their doors tomorrow, would our cities even know we were gone?” - Darrin Patrick*

## **Your Table Discussion Questions**

1. On a scale of 1-10, 1 being “*not at all*” and 10 being “*supremely*,” how selfish are you? What makes you this way? Explain.
2. Are you a compassionate man? Why or why not? Share about a time when you RECEIVED compassion from someone.
3. Good leaders delegate responsibility. Great leaders delegate responsibility and authority (think Jesus). This is how you empower others: you give them responsibilities and the power to succeed. Who was the last person to empower you? Who have you recently empowered? Explain.

## **Your “BetterMan” Reflection:**

Before our next session, take a moment this week to reflect on your notes and then answer the following question: “*Who is that person in my life I need to be kind towards that I have not?*” Write their name below and take action! Call, text, or invite them to coffee, apologize, and show them the kindness of Christ.