

Discuss the difference between appreciation and affirmation.

Change the following statement by adding a word of affirmation.
(Think about a specific Christ-like character quality to affirm.)

“Thanks for helping at church, you are _____.”

DEFERENCE READ John 13:1-17

1. How did Jesus model taking the lowest servant role?
2. Based on this passage, should we practice foot washing in our church? Why or why not?

READ Luke 22:24-27

1. How did Jesus describe his primary role to his disciples?
2. What is your primary role and responsibility in the church?

SUBMISSION READ Galatians 5:13-15.

What is commanded?

What is the warning?

4 Keys to Relationships That Work

Mark 10:35-45

April 19, 2015

BIG IDEA: In the Trinity we can discern God’s divine plan for every human relationship, including the church.

1. **Equality** = none is **greater** or less than the other

James and John sought a blank check (10:35) and asked for personal positions ahead of others (10:37).

- All who are in Christ are equally saved, **gifted**, sent (Galatians 3:28; 1 Cor. 12:7)
- All have different roles and responsibilities in His church (1 Cor. 4:7 and 12:4-6; also Eph. 4:11-12)
- All assignments are given by God as He **determines** (1 Cor. 12:11 and 18)

2. **Intimacy** = to **know** and to **love** another

James and John didn’t know any better (10:38). They asked for what they wanted for themselves, not out of love for Jesus.

Intimacy may be recognized by whom we **trust** and how we **communicate**.

- a) **Trust** is extended in things that matter deeply to us—that can succeed or fail—to people we know and love.

What has Christ entrusted to His church?

- His **mission**: to make disciples (Mt. 28:18-20)
- His method: self-giving service **to** God **for** others
- His message: the **gospel** (1 Cor. 15:1-11)

Two ways to trust others

- i. Transactional—enough to get the **job** done (Luke 19:28-34)
- ii. Transformational—empowers others to **change** the world (John 20:21-23)

- b) **Communicating** words of correction and encouragement is welcome from people we know and love.

Recognize both the job and also the person's character.

“Well done (**appreciation**)
good and faithful servant (**affirmation**).”
(see Matt. 25:21 and 23).

3. **Deference** = to give **honor** to another (Rom. 12:10)

James and John sought honor, not **service** (10:41)

In the church, honor is given to . . .

- suffering and unnoticed **servants** (1 Cor. 12:21-26)
- special **servants** (1 Cor. 16:15-18; Phil. 2:29)
- **servant** leaders (1 Thes. 5:12-13; 1 Tim. 5:17)

4. **Submission** = to surrender self-will and fulfill roles gladly

James and John were given the highest lowest role (10:43-44)

“not so” as ruling over . . . “even as” Christ serving under

Each role comes with response-**ability** to gladly fulfill it

Elders submit to Christ, Head of His church (1 Pet. 5:1-4)

Deacons serve God with the elders for the people (Acts 6)

People submit to the leaders as unto the Lord (Heb. 13:17)

When disagreements arise in church, you are only accountable for the role and responsibility God has given you in His church.

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| How to find the mind of Christ | { | <p>Search the Scriptures (Acts 17:11)</p> <p>Clothe yourselves in humility (1 Pet. 5:5)</p> <p>Avoid slander (James 4:11)</p> <p>Live at peace (Romans 12:18)</p> <p>Pray for the leaders (Heb. 13:18)</p> |
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Life Group Homework

EQUALITY READ Mark 10:13-16.

1. How did Jesus' disciples respond to the parents who brought their children?
2. How did Jesus respond to his disciples?
3. What value did Jesus place on the children?

READ 1 Corinthians 1:26-31.

1. Whom does God value and how does this compare with the value the world places on people?
2. What was God's purpose in choosing to value the despised, weak, lowly, and foolish things?

INTIMACY

Tell of a time when someone trusted you with an important task that really mattered if you succeeded or failed.

Was it a *transformational* experience of being trusted? What changed either in you or in those around you?