



Welcome back to DRIVE!

Tonight: Part One of Growing in Service **Serving the Church**

In this episode, we will discuss:

- ▶ The idea of “servant evolution”.
- ▶ The importance of serving the church.
- ▶ Our individual calling to ministry.

We trust the DVD content, and the information provided in this workbook will help you as you continue to grow deeper in your relationship with God, by influencing others for Christ.

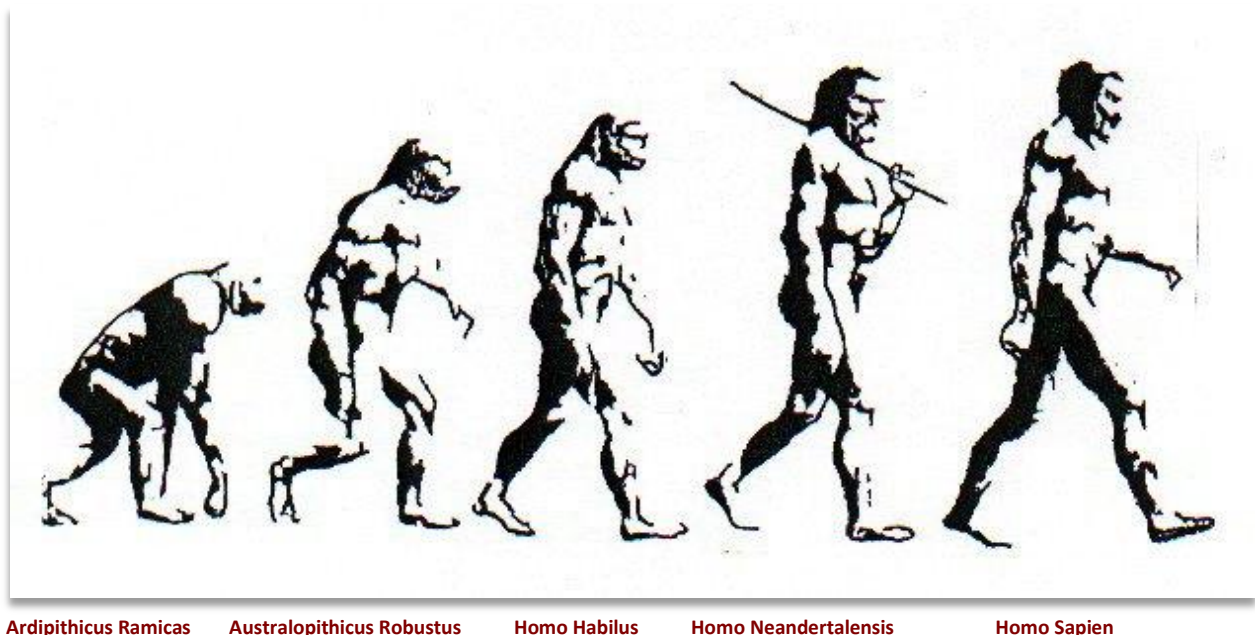
“And since I, your Lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other’s feet. I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you.”

(Jesus speaking to His disciples, from John 13)



Do you believe in evolution?

Charles Darwin's *Origin of Species* was published in 1859. Though certainly the most famous published work about natural selection, it wasn't the first. Many people before him believed in and fiercely defended the idea of natural selection. Many today believe in, and fiercely defend as accepted fact the theory of evolution. Specifically, the evolution of man as depicted in the following illustration:



A very brief snippet of the evolutionary scale of man. A fascinating theory to some. To others it is regarded as irrefutable fact. But the term 'evolution' applies to more than natural selection and genetic drift. Evolution is a process of formation or development. Evolution is...*growth*. What is the kind of formation, development or growth that all Christians *should* believe in? SERVANT EVOLUTION. An idea that is absolutely CENTRAL to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

So how does SERVANT EVOLUTION work? Through the changing of the heart, and the renewing of the mind. We have a helpful illustration on the next page – complete with the correct Latin terminology for each stage on the evolutionary scale. Enjoy!



Servantus Minimus – known by his basic disregard for the needs of others, an over-inflated opinion of himself and his own value, and his unbending posture, Servantus Minimus suffers from a malady in the Latin vulgate known as “*Memyselfand-i-ucus*”.

Servantus Maybeus – the action of rolling up his sleeves is not so much in preparation for work, but for concern that his cuffs may get dirty – who could blame him. Also known as “*I hope they don’t call me-i-cus*”

Stooping, as if to participate, we have **Servantus Almosticus** who is WAY more committed than our first two specimens...in THOUGHT, yet hesitates a bit to put his hand to the work. We might think of him as “*Will this take long-i-cus?*”

Servantus Mostofthetime-i-cus. His posture indicates he is not afraid to get hand or shirt dirty, in fact it is servants of this variety who do the lion’s share of the work in any organization.

The pinnacle of the evolutionary cycle, **Servantus Maximus**. From his position of humility he is able to wash floors...or wash feet. In fact – though servants of this variety are rare, he is the most sought after of all servants. Contrary to what his posture looks like, the sweat on his clothes, the calluses on his hands, looking everything like a common laborer, Jesus said of him, that he is the greatest of all. In fact, it is true, we could not aspire to a more exalted position than to be “*one who serves on bended knee*”.



Why be transformed?

“Don’t copy the behaviors and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.” (Romans 12:2, NLT)

We’ve all grown up in a culture that puts a high value on reaching a certain status in life – a status where we no longer have to concern ourselves with the requirements, or needs, of other people.

In our culture, we look at serving as the default lifestyle of **people without means**. And as “being served” as the reward for working really hard, or the entitlement of those who are privileged to have financial resources or high social status. It’s always been that way, but – as everything accelerates in our modern culture – so does the decline of our morality, particularly as it concerns how we care for other people.

Fueled by our greed for material wealth, and our lust for power, we have – as a society – adopted the preference to “be the man”, having repressed any desire to “serve the man”, equating serving others with weakness.

Our envy of those who have attained the lofty status of “rich”, and our desire for quick fame and notoriety, has changed our cultural mindset – as well as our National output. Where we used to lead the world in the manufacture of quality products unavailable anywhere else on the planet, our principle export has become reality television shows and YouTube videos. What fools we are.

But don’t panic. There’s hope. That hope is found in those who will give themselves to SERVANT EVOLUTION. **Take a few minutes and talk about this idea:**

DISCUSSION: Talk about a time someone served you in some way, or did something special for you. How did it make you feel? How about an example of when you did something for someone else when it truly cost you something to do it?



The Greatest Example

We've all heard about the miraculous things that Jesus did. But do we stop and recognize that those miracles were always in connection with serving other people? From healing the sick and the blind, to feeding thousands with a few fish and some bread, to actually dying on a cross for the sins of all mankind and being raised from the dead...all for others!

Big stuff – and meant for the whole world. But in one of the most intimate moments in the whole Bible, Jesus does something so remarkable for those who were his followers. Remarkable for anyone to do, but remember, for someone who was unquestionably the most powerful person on the planet to do this...it is breathtaking!

JOHN 13:4 So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, and poured some water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples feet, drying them with the towel he had around him.

"After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, "Do you understand what I was doing? You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord', and you are right because that is what I am.

And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you."

In one simple act, Jesus forever obliterated our idea of how a truly powerful person should exercise his power. Be serving. Of how a leader should lead. By sacrificing. Of how a Christian should live. For the good of others.

First Committed to Christ, then to His Church

The Apostle Paul notes the progression of generosity when – speaking of the church in Macedonia – he writes to the Christians in Corinth,

"they went beyond our expectations; having given themselves first of all to the Lord, they gave themselves by the will of God also to us."

The larger lesson of Paul's comment for us is about "commitment". He notes that the church FIRST gave themselves to Christ, and then gave themselves to one another. They were committed first to Christ, and as a result of that commitment, chose to be committed to the church.



SESSION SIX

It's not unusual to be committed to the church. You know this already: people are *always* going to be committed to *something*. It is for that reason the church must *ask* believers to be committed to the church. If the church doesn't ask believers to be committed to the church, you can be certain that some other organization will. Civic groups, service organizations, political parties, country clubs, soccer teams, dance schools, and the list goes on. The question isn't whether people are going to be committed, but rather who is going to get that commitment. And if the church doesn't ask for that commitment from people, people tend to conclude that what the church is doing isn't really as important as other activities.

Ever been a Little League parent? It's ASTOUNDING what the level of commitment is for those who will participate: from practice schedules, to game schedules, to snacks and refreshments, to trophies and team parties. Ever coached a Little League team? You just amped your commitment level about 300%. Once you commit to an organization like that, you find out very quickly there is nothing *voluntary* about your participation.

To have the best possible experience, and to have the best opportunity to be effective, you have to GIVE YOURSELF to that organization. The same is absolutely true of the church. Take a minute and talk about this:

DISCUSSION: Share an example of an organization – other than church – where you served, and what the level of commitment was like. What did you bring to it? What did you get out of it?

At Crossroads, we've chosen to be committed to the church, because we believe that Christ has called us all, as believers to a higher, level of commitment. A level of commitment that transcends just being part of an organization. A level of commitment that more closely aligns with the commitment Christ made to us, when He sacrificed everything for us: **the commitment to serve**.

But God did not leave us ill-equipped to meet the demands of this calling. Rather he specifically and uniquely empowered each of us to provide something the Church needs, by giving each of us gifts, talents and abilities. The Apostle Peter, writing about how our unique giftedness, our individual talents and our singular abilities relate to the church, says:

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10, TNIV

**Servant Evolution leads to MINISTRY****EVERY BELIEVER IS A _____.**

Every believer isn't a PASTOR, but every believer is CALLED into ministry. God calls ALL believers to minister to the WORLD and the CHURCH. Service in the Body isn't optional for Christians. In God's army, there are no volunteers – we've all been drafted into service. Service (like giving) is a defining characteristic of the Christ-like lifestyle. Remember: spiritual maturity is *becoming like Christ*. Christ-likeness is all about generosity, not just with our STUFF, but also with our time...with our LIVES. At Crossroads, we teach that:

Every Christian is _____ for ministry.

"He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago." (Ephesians 2:10, NLT)

Every Christian is _____ into ministry.

"...you are a chosen people..." (1 Peter 2:9)

"God has given us this task of reconciling people to him." (2 Corinthians 5:18)

Every Christian is _____ for ministry.

"God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another." (1 Peter 4:10, NLT)

Every Christian is _____ for ministry.

"All authority on heaven and earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the son and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey all I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:18-19)

Every Christian is to be _____ for ministry.

"Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ". (Ephesians 4:11-12, NLT)

Every Christian is _____ for ministry.

"All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it." (1 Cor 12:27)



Every Christian is _____ for ministry, and will be _____ according to our ministry.

“Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ.” (Colossians 3:23-24, NLT)

Every Christian is _____ into ministry.

“...you are a chosen people...” (1 Peter 2:9)

“God has given us this task of reconciling people to him.” (2 Corinthians 5:18)

Take a minute and talk about this:

DISCUSSION: What is in front of you – right now – that you can fully engage in?

The goal of Servant Evolution is reaching Others...

The Apostle Paul writes:

Even though I am free of the demands and expectations of everyone, I have voluntarily become a servant to any and all in order to reach a wide range of people: religious, nonreligious, meticulous moralists, loose-living immoralists, the defeated, the demoralized—whoever.

I didn't take on their way of life. I kept my bearings in Christ—but I entered their world and tried to experience things from their point of view.

I've become just about every sort of servant there is in my attempts to lead those I meet into a God-saved life. I did all this because of the Message. I didn't just want to talk about it; I wanted to be in on it!

*All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it.”
(1 Corinthians 9:19-23)*



What Servants DO

Servants find _____.

Paul says, "I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some. He entered their world and tried to experience things from their point of view. The moment we ignore the point of view of others, is the moment they disengage from us.

Servants meet the needs of _____.

There is no activity of a servant that is unnecessary or extraneous. God's kingdom is fueled and won by the activity of those who will be faithful.

Servants keep their bearings in _____.

Serving those that are not like you, doesn't mean that you turn into like those that are not like you. It means that you love them for who there are, and serve them for Christ.

Common characteristics of Servants:

SERVANTS:

RISK more than others think is safe

CARE more than others think is wise

DREAM more than others think is practical

EXPECT more than others think is possible

The following contains points of contact for the more than 120 individual opportunities to serve the body of Christ at Crossroads. Get in on it today!



To serve in any area of ministry at Crossroads, contact the people at the email addresses provided.

Children's Ministry

Nic McElveen

nic.mcelveen@crossroadsenterprise.org

Nursery
Toddlers
Pre-school
Kindergarten
Elementary
Check-In
Security
Music, Teaching and More!

Youth Ministry

Chris Brooks

chris.brooks@crossroadsenterprise.org

Set-up
Small Groups
Activities
Music, Teaching and More!

Guest Services (Lobby)

Rachel Williams

rachel.williams@crossroadsenterprise.org

Set-Up
Tear-Down and Clean-Up
Coffee Service
Food Service
Merchandise Sales
Parking Lot Attendants
Greeters

Auditorium

Chris Brooks

chris.brooks@crossroadsenterprise.org

Set-Up
Tear-Down and Clean-Up
Ushers

Tech Team

David Myers

info@crossroadsenterprise.org

Audio
Video
Lighting

Worship Team

Nic McElveen

nic.mcelveen@crossroadsenterprise.org

Instrumental and vocal Music

Small Groups

Ben Rice

ben.rice@crossroadsenterprise.org

Benevolence

Dave Clark

info@crossroadsenterprise.org

Food Ministry
Other Giving

Pastoral Care Service

Gene Oden

gene.oden@crossroadsenterprise.org

Homeless Care
Jail Ministry
Hospital Visits
All Other