

Table waiter? What is the Supporting Role of a Director?

Are you a Director under a Children's Pastor, Assistant Pastor or Senior Pastor? In this workshop we will discuss topics that will encourage, give hope and inspire growth as it relates to the role of a Children's ministry Director. Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

Table Waiter: to be an attendant, that is, wait upon ; technically to act as a Christian *deacon*: - minister , serve, use the office of a deacon. This expression properly denotes "to take care of, or provide for the table, or for the daily needs of a family." It is an expression that properly applies to a steward or a servant(Barnes)

Supporting role of the director(assistant): One who backs up, undergirds and supports another. One who follows after another.

Two basic Themes: Knowing who we are and who we are not.

A. Knowing who we are not.

1. We are not God

a. **Deu 6:4:** "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God *is* one LORD: "

b. **1Tim 2:5:** "for there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;"

i. This may seem obvious to us but sometimes we like to play the role of God in our lives.

2. We are not the Senior Pastor or the Children's Pastor.

a. **Acts 6:2-4** "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables: Therefore, brothers, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. But we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the Word."

The apostles explain that they(Pastors) should remain faithful to their central calling, which was **prayer and to the ministry of the word.**

i. They were wise in delegating these responsibilities.

ii. A pastor should not have his time consumed in tasks that are essentially *servicing tables*. Yet there is something wrong with a pastor who considers some tasks “beneath” him.

B. Knowing who we are.

1. We are Table waiters

Acts 6:3” Therefore, brothers, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.”

a. We have been chosen by God for the task at hand

i. **Joh 15:16** “You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you and ordained you that you should go and bring forth fruit,”

b. A Table Waiter is to be of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and Wisdom

i. **Good Reputation:** Godly folk who bring honor to God not shame. People will judge the leader by the action of the servant underneath him.

ii. **Full of the Holy Spirit:** Endued with power from on high. (Acts 1:8) “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you (This is the baptism of the Holy Spirit).

iii. **Filled with wisdom:** Live out what you learn, spend time in God’s word (Prov 2:6) For the LORD gives wisdom; out of His mouth come knowledge and understanding.

2. We are assistants to our overseer (Children’s Pastor, Senior Pastor)

The supporting role of a Children’s ministry Director has great responsibility and one should never take the responsibility lightly. As a Children’s ministry director, there are many tasks to accomplish, many areas of ministry to facilitate and we must not forget who we serve, we serve the risen King of Kings, Lord of Lords our Savior Jesus Christ. Knowing who we are in Christ let’s look at a few areas that can help us grow in the area of ministry God has entrusted to us.

a. **The Director is an assistant.** The Director is there to support the Children’s Pastor and is to complete the tasks the Children’s Pastor cannot do. What things in your ministry are not getting done because the Children’s Pastor cannot do them?

i. Joshua is a great example of an assistant in his relationship to Moses as Timothy is to Paul in the new testament. These men are examples for us to follow. We should take time to study their lives and how they served.

- b. **The Director is to be a person of the word of God and prayer.** How can we effectively minister and serve others if we ourselves are not rooted and grounded in the Word of God and have a steadfast diet of Prayer?
- i. **Col 2:6-7** “As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.”
 - ii. **1Thess 5:17** “pray without ceasing”
 - iii. **Psalm 119:11** “Your Word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.”
- c. **The Director should not be a grumbler, complainer or an Eeyore.** When asked to complete a task be a doer of what is asked of you and do it as unto the Lord. (List some tasks you have been asked to do and have complained or just not do them)
- i. **Phil 2:14-15** “Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,”
 - ii. **Jude 16** “These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage.”
- d. **The Director should be a self-starter.** This is a person who does not need someone to push them along, they see what needs to be done and do it. You will make mistakes along the way. My overseer has always said “I would rather pull back on the reigns instead of kicking you along” It also has been said “that the only people who make mistakes are the people who are doing something”
- e. **The Director must be humble.** There will be times when we cross over the line and correction is to be made. None of us are perfect. Are we willing to accept correction or will pride step in?
- i. **Heb 12:6** “For whom the LORD loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives”
 - ii. **Prov 3:12** “For whom the LORD loves He corrects, just as a father the son in whom he delights”
 - iii. **Heb 12:11** “Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”
- f. **The Director must be teachable.** We are to grow in our area of ministry and learn from our mistakes. None of us have arrived and we must continually be learning. Are you a KIA (Know It All)? If you are then you can’t grow or be used. Are you willing to be taught?
- i. **Isa 2:3** “Come and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.”

ii. **Psalm 119:12** “Blessed are You, O LORD! Teach me Your statutes.”

g. The Director is to be likeminded with the Children’s Pastor or overseer. What goals or desires does your Children’s Pastor have? Does your vision align with theirs? Are you always butting heads? Do you complain against them behind their backs? When talking to others in your ministry do you have your own agenda? We are to be like minded and care for the ministry as our Children’s Pastor does.

i. **Phil 2:19-21** “But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your state. For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state. For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus.”

ii. **Phil 2:2** “fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.”

3. **The Director is a servant leader**

A Director is to lead by example to those who serve under them. There is no greater example of a servant leader than Jesus Himself.

John 13:4-17 Jesus “rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, “Lord, are You washing my feet? Jesus answered and said to him, “What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this.” Peter said to Him, “You shall never wash my feet! Jesus answered him, “If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me.” Simon Peter said to Him, “Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!” Jesus said to him, “He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you.” For He knew who would betray Him; therefore He said, “You are not all clean.” So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. **For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.** Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

a. **Serving:** Jesus said “Blessed are you if you do them” It is not enough to know what to do but to do it. James said “To be doers of the Word and not hearers only” Here are 4 qualities I believe every Director should have concerning serving.

i. **Availability.** If we believe we are serving God by serving our Children’s Pastor, then are you available to serve Him? Do you make excuses as why you can’t serve? One thing to remember is God does not need you, but He chose you because we have blown it so bad that He wants to use us. (1 Cor 1:27) But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which

are mighty; (Rom 3:23) “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” We are all sinners but God has a sense of humor and He chose you and me and God gets the glory! God is no respecter of person and only wants to see the expansion of His Kingdom and blessing His people. He will do this whether you are available or not. The question is “are you available to be used for His Kingdom to do the task that is asked of you? If not, He will use someone else.

ii. **Willingness.** This goes along with availability. Are you willing to get your hands dirty, do put your hands on the plow? There is work to be done, don't think God has appointed you to just stand around and tell everyone else what to do. (1 Peter 5:3) “nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock;” Lead by example, do the work of a servant because that is what we are. Don't forget that you are a servant, don't allow your position or title puff you up. Ministry is work which we have been called to do. The labors are few but the blessings are eternal!

iii. **Joyfully** This quality goes along way. When you serve with a joyful heart it is contagious. When Paul and Silas were beaten, and put in stocks in the Philippian jail, what were they doing? They were praying and singing praise to the Lord! What took place was a miracle of God, people got saved! (Psalm 35:9) “And my soul shall be joyful in the Lord; It shall rejoice in His salvation.”

iv. **Pure heart.** Serve with a pure heart not as men pleasers. If you serve man you will get a man's reward. (Gal 1:10) “For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still please men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ” Be a bondservant of Christ not for gain but we just love Him. Do you give God your best or your last? Do you see serving God as a privilege or a burden? Do a heart check on yourself frequently. Are you serving to be seen by others?

b. Practical ministry of a Director

i. Be ready and able to teach when called upon.

ii. Take care of needs before they get noticed by your Children's Pastor

iii. Be equipped for ministry, counseling, praying for others, serving others needs (dumping trash, getting more curriculum, pencils crayons or anything else the teachers need)

iv. Be on time to meetings (especially if you are leading them)

v. Be respectful of your servant's time

vi. Be visible and approachable

vii. No when to speak and when not to.

viii. Know who your leader is and let them minister when you are together dealing with a situation.

ix. Handle as many of the issues that arise yourself without going to your Children's Pastor.

x. Meet regularly with your Children's Pastor to discuss ministry, asking questions, taking notes as to what is needed.

3. Closing

God has a great plan for you and the ministry you serve in. He loves you so much and wants to bless you abundantly. Stay close to Him, seek Him in all things. Pray for your Children's Pastor, be a blessing to them lifting their arms so they can do the ministry they are called to do. Don't be a burden to them, serve with joy and gladness.

Pray for your fellow Directors in the ministry, love the kids that have been entrusted to you, love your servants and pray for them. Ask the Lord to give you a deeper love for the ministry and above all raise others up to be likeminded to carry on the ministry of teaching the kids about the love of our Savior Jesus Christ!