

HUMBLE SERVANTS

John 12:26 ... "If anyone serves me [Christ], let him follow me; and where I am, there my servant will be also. If anyone serves me, him my Father will honor."

What do you think of when you think of a servant of God? A pastor or priest? Sunday or Sabbath school teachers? Worship leaders and musicians? Ushers and elders? We might think that the most visible people serving God are the true servants of God. When we do that, we can make the mistake of ignoring the unseen workers: the people who sweep the floors of the church, dust off pews and chairs, repair curtains, rake the leaves on the ground, take out the trash, and prepare communion elements. They are equal servants in the ministry and deserve equal gratitude and praise for their service.

For years I served in a large church in California. We had dozens of Sunday School teachers and nursery workers, many musicians, ushers, greeters, parking lot attendants and more. But we also had many behind-the-scenes brothers and sisters who maintained the church, cleaned it, and did many other tasks that few saw. One brother in particular is a dear friend of mine. His name is Bryan Korsmeier. I spent hundreds of hours with him working on sound systems and stage lighting. On Sundays, he sat quietly and unseen in the sound booth, exercising his God-given skills and talent to ensure that every service went well and that the sound was perfect. Bryan was just as much a servant of God as our pastors. For many years, I sat on the stage of that church playing keyboards, visible to everyone. Bryan did his job in a remote sound booth with true humility but without the praise that he really deserved.

Are you recognizing the humble and unseen servants in your church? Or, are you thinking most about your pastor or worship leader, who are very visible during services? Is your pastor's wife receiving the blessings and gratitude that she deserves? She is a key component of your church and your pastor's ministry. Are you treating your church janitor, grounds keeper and maintenance people with the same honor that you have for your pastor? They are all servants of God. They all have answered the call to serve. They all deserve your blessings, encouragement, and support.

If you fall into this category – a humble, behind-the-scenes servant of God in your church – let me thank you and extend my encouragement to you. You are valuable to the Kingdom of God and of great importance in his eyes.

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