



On Being a Servant of God

Warren W. Wiersbe

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Sometimes people lose sight of the core of their ministry. They feel overwhelmed by the needs that surround them on a daily basis. Wise and beloved pastor Warren Wiersbe invites ministry leaders to listen in on thirty short "armchair chats" to encourage and strengthen them for service. He shares what he wishes he had known about ministering to others when he began his own Christian pilgrimage. "Ministry," he says, "takes place when divine resources meet human needs through loving channels to the glory of God." With this new edition of a classic book, which includes a foreword by Jim Cymbala, the next generation of ministry leaders can take advantage of Wiersbe's years of wisdom.

On Being a Servant of God Details

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From Reader Review On Being a Servant of God for online ebook

Carol says

Wiersbe began his ministry in 1956 and he didn't have a clear vision of what Christian work was all about. "Methods are many, principals are few; Methods always change, principals never do." Wiersbe realized that methods only work because of the principal behind them. (Wiersbe in my opinion is exceptional writer, love his BE series also!)

His four elements of ministry:

1. Divine Resource
2. The Human Need
3. Loving Channels
4. The Glory of God *most important

Our first step is to confess our bankruptcy and receive faith and grace that we need for acceptable service. Ministry takes place when divine resources meet human needs. We are called to live for others -- like Jesus. In Christian service, a sensitive spirit and tender heart are absolutely essential. We must say-- "Lord, what do you want me to do?" Both Christian Ministeries and humanitarian benevolence are done in love, but only Christian Ministry can put grace in their heart, so that lives will be changed. Sometimes it isn't what WE have done that creates the difficulty but what OTHERS have done. Matthew 20:28 "Jesus did not come to be served; but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." We are to be like Jesus. Remember selfishness says-- "What will I get?" Service says-- "What I have I'll give to you." If the worker isn't blessed by the work, then something is radically wrong. Serving isn't a punishment, it is NOURISHMENT! We are all loving channels of the grace of God. He has us work in His strength, not in our own strength. The love needed for ministry is not a natural ability, it is a supernatural quality that only God can provide. God is as concerned about the servant as He is about the service. He wants to do something THROUGH us and something IN us. You and I can't do everything but we can do something, which is the ministry that God calls us to fulfill.

Anne says

More aimed towards those who really work as ministers or in the church community, but a very great book nonetheless that encourages you to keep going and be strong even when things don't go as you might expect them, or when dealing with difficult people who challenge your Faith. I really enjoyed it, and since I used to work as a volunteer in the Parish Office, it was very helpful to better understand what ministers and counsellors have to go through on a daily basis.

Ebookwormy1 says

My husband and I read this book with other small group leaders for spiritual enrichment. "The thirty 'chats' in this book deal with some principles of ministry that I wish somebody had shared with me when I was ordained back in 1951..." states Wiersbe's introduction.

This book delivers. Every chat is full of pithy wisdom and rich clear principles for life and ministry. Topics are diverse and include: defining effective ministry, avoiding pitfalls, loyalty, notes to the seniors, notes to the young people, dealing with failure, absorbing success, staying close to the Word, integrating ministry and family life, etc. etc. I wouldn't have time to type into Goodreads all the quotes that struck me from this text!

I found reading it to be much like sitting down with the older, wiser grandfather we all wish we could consult about our struggles. And as I read, I thought through difficulties I had in ministry (both full-time and lay service) and whether or not I had handled them as he was advising and what difference it would make if I'd had this knowledge at the time.

Both my husband and I were grateful to have read this book and we felt like we wish we'd had more time to meditate on it and absorb it. I would highly recommend this book - it is one I will be periodically reviewing myself.

Elizabeth says

This book was such an encouragement to me! I'd recommend it to anyone who serves in the church, particularly pastors, but also ministry leaders and volunteers. It's a good refresher of why we serve, Who we serve, and why it matters.

This was my first Wiersbe book, so I didn't know quite what to expect... It's a fast read, but there's a lot to chew over, so I spread out the read over about a month. This is a book worth underlining. A lot of wisdom here.

Samuel Cowan says

What a small book with so much put into it, this is a very valuable tools to all in Ministry, whether church or Mission and to all considering going into full time ministry for the Lord.

It is very much Warren Wiersbe from his heart and in this little book published in the UK by 10ofThose Publisher and a very challenging and heart warming book for all to have.

The chapters are seen as chats that Wiersbe had with those who are in ministry and he brings not only his experience as a Pastor but all as a Bible teacher into the chat as well.

Whether you are facing hurts, doubts about ministry or would like to learn from a very experienced Pastor who has a heart of Pastors and others in Ministry then this is for you.

May you be blessed and encouraged in your ministry, guided as you contemplate your roll in ministry as you learn from Pastor Wiersbe and the Lord Himself.

Philip Parker says

Read this as part of Men's Accountability group. We meet each week to discuss three chapters as a group and although the chapters were small they had so much for us to discuss and ponder about our lives. One of those books you know you will be wanting to visit again and again.

Bryant says

I'm reading this book for my Practical Christian Ministry class and it has been extremely awesome so far! Invaluable insight for every Christian in their service to the Lord.

Kristi says

On being a servant of God has become my favorite book on the topic of Servanthood and leadership; Warren Weirsbe covers most topics of ministry in succinct but profound chapters which he writes with a very specific audience in mind. The book is definitely oriented towards an active member of the church -- however, it really does become irrelevant whether you are the a newbie volunteer at a 50 person parish or a member of staff at a mega-church. The truths written in this book will challenge you to view your ministry from a more Godly perspective and will engage you in identifying the areas in which you can improve.

Kent says

Warren Wiersbe is one of those guys who writes so clearly and simply that you can question his depth in between readings. But then you pick up one of his books to read again, and you're reminded how of how wrong you were.

On Being a Servant of God is comprised of 30 short chapters on various aspects of ministry and servanthood. It is thoroughly practical, biblical, and wise, and filled with illustrations. Each chapter is devoted to a specific topic, like money, criticism, enemies, bad days, loyalty, reaching the lost, joy in serving, the priority of the Scriptures, reading, ministry as a married person, senior citizens, failure, humor, when to leave a ministry and more.

Wiersbe is quotable. Here are just a few examples:

You'll meet problem people and problem situations wherever you go, so make up your mind to expect them, accept them, and let God use them in your life. The devil wants to use problem people as weapons to tear you down, but the Spirit can use them as tools to build you up. (17)

The prophet Ezekiel wrote, "Then I came to the captives at Tel Abib, who dwelt by the River Chebar; and I sat where they sat" (Ezek. 3:15). I sat where they sat. That's the posture of the true servant of Jesus Christ ... (17)

Somebody asked the wealthy banker J. P. Morgan what the best collateral was for a loan, and Morgan replied, "Character." (42)

Christians who live in the Word are used of God to get His work done in this world. (109)

The real measure of our wealth is how much we'd be worth if we lost all our money. (141; quoting John Henry Jowett)

The future is our friend when Jesus is our Lord. He still goes before His sheep and prepares the way. Our job isn't to second-guess Him but to follow Him. He'll take care of the rest: "Known to God from eternity are all His works" (Acts 15:18). (146)

René says

That has a lot of good information about the challenges of ministry from the perspective of one that's been there. He doesn't offer easy answers, but he does not preach doom and gloom either. He's realistic that it's difficult, but it's good.

It's a little old school, so sometimes I had to reread parts because the wording was cumbersome, but overall, the information was helpful and encouraging.

Simon Genoe says

Loads of truth but becomes a bit dry half way thru! Worth a read tho

Michelle Barringer says

If you want to be challenged and encouraged to what being a servant of God is really about and what it takes to be the best for God, then this is a book for you. Not for the faint of heart!

Like Wiersbe, I too am "encouraged about the future because God is in it."

I re-read this book over the summer! It's become one of my "go-to" books for insight, understanding, and encouragement as I continue being a servant of God.

Reid says

" Ministry takes place when

(1)divine resources meet

(2)human needs through

(3)loving channels to

(4)the glory of God"

Ministry's definition

Ministry's motive

Luther: "Prayer, meditation and temptation make a minister"

Really good collection of thoughts about ministry based on the above quotation.

Bendick Ong says

Was passed this neat book which is actually a good pool of resources if one is thinking of encouraging fellow christians – mainly cos each chapter (wiersbe used “chat”) is around 1-8 pages long and capable of standing by its own.

Have found some that are real worth reading (which i marked with an *) and since the chapters come without a title, thought it would be useful to name them for future reference!:

introduction

elements of christian ministry 1: divine resources*

elements of christian ministry 2: human needs

elements of christian ministry 3: loving channels

elements of christian ministry 4: glory of God

being of use to God: finding your gifts, best self and strengths*

serving the Lord instead of serving man*

the providence and faithfulness of God

holiness and the building of christian character*

spiritual maturity: servant leadership

dealing with people: augustinian unity, liberty and charity

humor in christians: “joy is the serious business of heaven”*

the effect of a ministry on a minister*

bad reasons to quit a ministry*

good reasons to quit a ministry and how one should do it*

handling failures in ministry*

advice to senior christians*

advice to young christians: 1 page only!*

six myths about reading*

marriage: that family and ministry should not be in conflict

joy in service: privilege and pleasure

the Word of God: God’s revealed will

what God is looking for: the importance of saving the lost

on loyalty: diligence and devotion

disappointment: that suffering and glory come together

joy and fear in the Lord: relationship and responsibility

weariness in ministry: getting through it day by day*

enemy and the importance of forgiveness

mammon and God’s sanctification

future challenges and peace*

Guess whether a chapter gets an asterix depends largely on how relevant it is to my present walk – things i would want to know more - which means it might differ from person to person and from time to time, if not one can just read the asterixed ones if one is busy – or you can choose to do a chapter a day.

This book would also be very much suitable as a bible study material too – as there will be lots to reflect, share and talk about after the short reading.

Jonathan Templeton says

Mucha opinion y motivado por esfuerzo propio.

¿A quién lo recomendaría? -

¿Hay algún libro que recomendaría antes? - La Vida Cruzcentrica
