

## *The Sword & Shield:* An e-Newsletter from Warren G. Lee, Jr., 38<sup>th</sup> Grand Basileus

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*"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Mark 10:45)*

**Don't forget to register for the 75<sup>th</sup> Grand Conclave in Birmingham, AL! History will be made there, July 9 - 17<sup>th</sup>.**

### *...To Serve or Be Served?*

I'm sure many of you are familiar with the leadership development writings of Steven Covey, Max De Pree and Ken Blanchard. These authors write about a style of leadership known as 'servant leadership'. The modern concept of servant leadership was first penned by Robert Greenleaf in an essay entitled "The Leader As Servant" in 1970. What's unique about this style of leading is that it encourages leaders to first see themselves as stewards of an organization's resources. In other words, it requires a leader to focus on the question of how best to serve.

I write about this topic because as I travel around the Fraternity and interact with Brothers, I sometimes encounter different views about what the role of the Fraternity should be. For example, there is one school of thought that suggests that Omega's main focus should be internal. That is, we should be about the business of providing services and activities that mainly benefit our loyal Members. On the other hand, there is a school of thought that strongly believes that Omega's primary mission is to look outward and serve humankind. Given my reading of our history in key places such as the Preamble and the formal opening of our meetings, I am of the opinion that this issue was addressed a long time ago.

We were intended to be Servant Leaders! (See, for example, our "watch word", implied motto, and the Fourth Cardinal Principle!)

Still there are some who are not convinced that Omega Men should strive to be Servant Leaders. Well, read what Bishop Love said in '73: I'd be very happy to know that so many of our chapters are involved in community activities making it possible for the under-privileged to have recreational programs and other activities which pertain to character building. The Founders gave it [Omega] life but so many others in years gone... have given great love and service to make it the best College Fraternity in the United States."

And what about the fact that we were founded on Christian principles? Guess who demonstrated this style of leadership long before Greenleaf? Jesus. The Apostle Mark writes: "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

So, what does it mean to practice Servant Leadership? It means that Omega Men seek first to serve and not be served. It means that we constantly strive to do Omega's work through collaboration, building trust and doing the right thing. From an ethical standpoint, it means that We choose to lead and get involved in programs of Uplift because we want to serve others; not make ourselves look good. We should approach our social action programs and projects with a common vision that is consistent with our Cardinal Principles.

And how do we know when we're measuring up? I believe that the best test is to ask whether or not we have made a difference in the lives of those we serve in our respective communities. Are you building trust and working with others? Are you trying to be more like Jesus? Are you a servant or are you seeking to be served?

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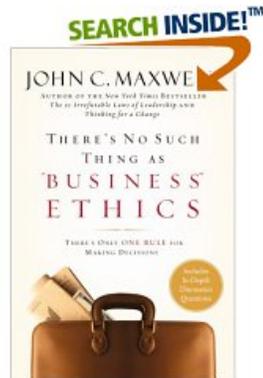
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## Reader's Corner



Given the simplicity and universality of the Golden Rule, why do so many of us so often stray from practicing it? There are five factors, Maxwell writes that “undermine” the Golden Rule:

1. Pressure. “And with pressure comes the temptation to cut corners or bend the truth. ... No one escapes pressure.”
2. Pleasure. “For decades, people in America were encouraged by the words ‘If it feels good, do it.’”
3. Power. “Unfortunately, for many people, having power is like drinking salt water. The more you drink, the thirstier you get.”
4. Pride. “... having an exaggerated sense of self-worth can be highly destructive. Wisdom literature is filled with warnings concerning pride and its negative impact.”
5. Priorities. “Any time a person doesn’t know what his priorities are, he can find himself in trouble because he is liable to make poor decisions.”

For each of these factors, Maxwell suggests easy steps we can take to defeat their influence. The “golden opportunity” many of us seek in the external world, he argues, can never be seized without first doing “the groundwork on the inside.” He explains each of eight steps involved in doing that: Take responsibility for your actions, develop personal discipline, know your weaknesses, align your priorities with your values, admit wrongdoing quickly and ask forgiveness, take extra care with finances, put your family ahead of your work, and place high value on people.

“You can go for the gold,” Maxwell notes, “or you can go for the Golden Rule.” In [THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS BUSINESS ETHICS](#), he eloquently and convincingly makes the case for the latter, and powerfully relates the specific measures by which any of us can achieve it—and revel in the joy that comes by adhering to ethics that are never compromised.

### Basic Responsibilities of a Nonprofit Board:

1. Determining the organizations mission and purpose
2. Supporting the Chief Executive Officer and assessing his performance
3. Ensuring effective organizational planning
4. Ensuring adequate resources
5. Managing resources effectively
6. Determining, monitoring, and strengthening the organization's programs and services
7. Ensuring legal and ethical integrity and maintaining accountability
8. Enhancing the organization's public standing