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The Aim of Leadership

When it comes to leadership in the house of God there are parallels in both the business as well as the church arena. Beginning in the 80s with the rise of the "seeker sensitive, church growth movement" there was an abundance of books and teachings that put forth many valuable leadership principles and practices. Even with this overlap we must remember that Spiritual Leadership according to the Bible has some unique features that simply do not translate to other models of leadership.

What is the unique thing that makes Spiritual leadership different from all other types of leadership? It has to do with the motivation and the goal. **Spiritual leadership is not an occupation but a calling.** What is the call, to motivate, encourage, and help God's people embrace His agenda for their lives.

Colossians 1:28-2:7

Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

WARNING



CHALLENGES
AHEAD

Sunday 13 March 2011

A central Biblical feature of God's agenda is the call to grow us as we follow Jesus as a family of disciples on His mission. Leaders need to have that goal in mind as they lead. This was clearly the mentality Paul and his fellow leaders had in their leadership calling.

- ***Colossians 1:12-2:19... (28) We announce the message about Christ, and we use all our wisdom to warn and teach everyone, so that all of Christ's followers will grow and become mature. (29) That's why I work so hard and use the mighty power he gives me...(6) You have accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord. Now keep on following him. (7) Plant your roots in Christ and let him be the foundation for***

your life. Be strong in your faith, just as you were taught...(19) Christ, who is the head of the whole body. Christ gives the body its strength, and he uses its joints and muscles to hold it together, as it grows by the power of God.

Perverted motivations for God's call

Church isn't a gathering of watching stones but a family of "living stones" (1 Pet 2:4-5). We are never called to accommodate consumer Christianity in which people simply come week after week to sit and get.

What is the goal and motivation that some leaders have in their mind? Contrary to the above verse, many leaders believe that they are succeeding if they can produce a Sunday morning service which is appealing causing people to want to come and listen to them exercise their gift.

When movies are written they are often written with the last seen in mind. For some in leadership the last seen that everything else is

built around is having a bunch of people gathering in a room to hear them talk. Is having a bunch of people, programs, and buildings with your image at the center of it all really what God's agenda is about? Biblically He wants a body of people committed to loving Him, loving and serving each other, and growing up as they engaging in His mission (Mt 28:18-19).

Instead of having a passive audience coming week after week to watch a leader move in his gift, Biblical leaders want to motivate a body of people to move in their unique gifts and abilities as they engage in His mission on earth. The result is God's glory being seen, people growing up, and God's mission being fulfilled in the earth by a whole body of His people. The spotlight will be on Jesus and His bride, not an egotistical leader. (Rom 12:1-12, 1 Corinthians 12, 14, Eph 4:16, Col 2:19, 1 Pet 4:1-11).

If Spiritual leadership is being exercised there will be 4 essential things that every leader is motivating God's people towards which are essential to their maturity.

- **God's face.** In both the OT and the NT the phrase "the presence of the Lord" means being in front of God's face. All of God's people are called to walk in a real relationship with Him that is face to face. As they consistently walk in His face, strength comes, correction comes, and encouragement comes that leads people toward maturity (2 Cor 3:1-18).

- **God's word.** God's word is His will. We are called to live by God's word that brings freedom and life in us (Jn 8:31-32). His word is His truth which is designed to transform us. We are not to ignore or change His word, but His word is designed to change us. This is why every member of the body of Christ is called to "speak God's word" because it is a revelation of His will (Eph 4:11-16, Zech 8:1-16).

Instead of having a passive audience coming week after week to watch the leader move in his gift, Biblical leaders want to motivate a body of people to move in their unique gifts and abilities as they engage in His mission on earth.

- **God's family.** People grow as "they are planted in the House of God" (Ps 92:12-15). Planted means walking in a relational way of life with God and His people. It is not just sporadically attending meetings but living God's life together with His family. This is where we grow. This is where our selfishness is challenged and overcome. In that context we learn to walk in the **Biblical Traits of Maturity:**

Biblical love (1 Cor 13:1-13), the mind of Christ (1 Cor 13:1-13), and the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-24). *"Patience, kindness, joy, peace, humility, doesn't brag, isn't arrogant, is not self-seeking or swept up in self-interest, is not easily provoked, bears with people, endures things, full of hope, doesn't take into account wrongs, serves, has self-control."*

- **God's mission.** We cannot mature without embracing God's mission with His family. This is how Jesus called His disciples on earth. They were to walk with Him and His family as they embraced His mission (Mk 3:14-35). This was how they grew and worked to manifest His glory in the earth (Eph 3:10-11).

Spiritual leaders will consistently call people to those 4 things which are His agenda. They will not be content with filling buildings with an audience of watching stones. Like Paul and his team they will do everything they can to motivate people to become living stones who pursue His agenda.

Check it out and sign up

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