

Leading God's Way

John 14:1-14

We are all involved in leadership. Some of us lead a family, others lead a business or lead a group of students. Some lead a Gospel ministry and others lead a company. These are days of challenge, days of crisis and days of opportunity. But also days of change. So we need to be prepared to lead our children and our companies in the midst of change. If we are not able to cope with the continual changes then those we lead will experience frustration, fear for the future, stress and disappointment and even anger.

1. God is calling all of us to lead in one way or another.

One definition of a leader:

A person called by God to influence a group of people to achieve a clearly defined purpose.

The Lord Jesus is the Master Teacher, the Master Manager and He sent a small group of people into a hostile the world to with a clear commission. The Bible says that they went everywhere and they turned the world up side down!

There is much we can learn from the Master. The top people who conduct Leadership Seminars these days are Mormons from Utah. I rather learn from the Lord Jesus Christ. He is influencing more people and has more followers then any one else. So we turn to the Word of God to learn about leading God's Way.

A leader must first of all create a trust in himself among his followers. There will be no respect to a father if his children do not trust him. No respect to a husband if the wife does not trust him. No respect to a manager or director if the employees do not trust him. The disciples totally trusted the Lord Jesus. He simply told them: 'Come and follow me' and they left their fishing business, their boats and nets and followed Him.

A good leader shows three important characteristic to his followers:

Love. Humility and Self-Control

Nero, Hitler and Idi Amin demonstrated great leadership to their followers but their leadership ended in disgrace bringing great distruction and suffering. They did not show love, humility and self-control in their leadership, rather hatred and pride and they were controlled by their passions and selfishness.

2. A leader must have a Vision or a Dream.

In the year 1863 Abraham Lincoln signed the Declaration of Emancipation to free the Negros in America from slavery. But 100 later the negros still suffered racial discrimination in America.

In 1963 a Baptist Pastor named Martin Luther King declared his Vision to America. He envisioned freedom, justice and equality to all God's children living in America. In a speech in Washington he declared over and over again "I have a dream..."

A vision is a clear picture about a certain goal and purpose for your family, or your business. Our Vision is based on the Word of God.

Examples of people with a clear vision are:

Jesus Christ of Galilea - World Evangelism

Mahatma Gandhi of India - Freedom for India with non-violence

Soekarno of Indonesia – Freedom and Unity of the Dutch East Indies.

Henry Ford of the USA – one car for every American Family

John Sung of China – Proclamation of the Gospel to all Chinese living in South East Asia.

But having a vision is not enough. There must be a commitment and dedication to this vision. This is called a Mission. A Mission is to bring to realization the Vision. Jesus Christ was dedicated to do the Will of His Father. All He talked about was His father. He spoke the words of His father and did the works of His Father.

There is only One Mission and One Vision. Our Mission is also based on the Word of God. The Word of God is our Manual, our Authority. This Word of God needs no change or ammendments because it is perfect and complete. Outstanding leaders such at Abraham Lincoln kept a Bible on their desk and consulted the Word of God daily.

3. Setting Goals to achieve the Vision and Mission.

With a clear Vision and Mission we can set some goals to achieve our mission. The Lord Jesus gave clear goals to His followers in Acts 1:8 “Jerusalem, Galilea, Samaria and the entire world.”

There is the story of Cecil B. Day. His Vision was make money for God’s work. His Mission was to build motels called Day’s Inn. In a 4 year period he built 40.000 rooms. Always the Vision and Mission remained the same, to Earn money for God’s work. He used SMART goals

S Specific - something to work towards, to evaluate

M Measurable - start one BMW each year.

A Attainable Do not forget Mark 10:27 “With God nothing is Impossible”

R Realistic - Evangelize all of Indonesia 5 years not realistic but to train 100 Evangelists for 100 villages in 3 years is realistic.

T Tangible - I want to become more spiritual is to abstract but I promise to pray And read God’s Word for 30 minutes is something tangible.

4. The characteristic of LOVE in leadership.

John 15:14 “You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer call you servants because a servant does not know his masters business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything what I have learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me but I have chosen you and appointed you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. This is my commandment: Love each other.”

True love involves paying attention to the needs of others. Love is active not passive. Love in management and leadership is people oriented. Not computer or machine oriented. Love demands expression. We see love expressed in the life of Jesus. He expressed love in 4 areas: Serving, Sacrifice. Self-denial and Forgiving..

In Galatians 5:22-23 we note that Love is listed as the fruit of the Spirit. All the other characteristic are related to love.

Joy is the Music of Love

Peace is the agreement of love

Patience is the perseverance of love

Kindness and Goodness are the manifestations of love

Faithfulness is the measure of love

Gentleness is the spirit of love.

Self-control is a demonstration of love.

5. The characteristic of humility in leadership.

How do we develop humility?

- (6) Jesus Christ must be on the throne in our heart. He said in Matthew 11:29 “ Learn from Me from I am gentle and humble of heart”.
- (7) Obedience to the command of the Lord Jesus. John 14:5
- (8) Spent time in prayer. Follow the example of our Lord. Mark 1:35, 6:46
- (9) Always ready to serve. Luke 22:27 “I am among you as one who serves”
Matthew 20:28 “I came to serve not to be served”

6. The Characteristic of Self-Control in leadership.

Self control can only take place when you and I are controlled by the Holy Spirit. A life controlled by the Holy Spirit is a life of discipline. We are watching the World Cup. It takes hours, months and years for those athletes to practice and live disciplined lives.

Many leaders fail in leadership because they cannot control self.

They are dishonest in money matters

They are unable to resist sexual temptation

They talk to much

They drink to much

They think highly of themselves – a proud heart

They have no patience and get angry quickly

How to develop self control? Seven steps must become a life style

1. Trust in the Lord. Proverbs 3:5-6
2. Keep strict discipline in private life, morals, family life and business Practices.
3. Make a decision before the problems come. Daniel purposed in his heart...
4. Give thanks for all things
5. Don't return evil for evil
6. Think upon the good. Phil. 4:8 Be positive.
7. Be controlled by the Holy Spirit.