

May 3, 2015

## What Leadership Is and Is Not

Pat Cowden

In discussing leadership, it is helpful to examine what actions and characteristics a good leader will have. In addition, it is helpful to spend time looking at what actions or characteristics a good leader will not have. No person that I have ever known, except Christ, has possessed these leadership qualities perfectly so we should not be discouraged when we prayerfully examine where we are now because we will always be found lacking in comparison to Christ. Paul encourages us to not count ourselves to have apprehended, but one thing we should do, forget those things which are behind and reach forward to those things which are ahead. (Philippians 3:13)

First, let us "reach forward" by looking at what leadership is not. Leadership is not:

- Passive. Why?
  - Because no one follows them since they are going nowhere.
- Dictatorial. Why?
  - Because this leads to frustration and rebellion ( ex: Diotrophes & John 9) .
- Presumptive. Why?
  - Because this leader is "the" expert and results in "one man rule".
- Micro-managing. Why?
  - Because they need to have their finger on every detail, unable to trust others.
- Reluctant. Why?
  - Because they are overcautious, fearful, and slow to act with nothing ever getting done.
- Extreme. Why?
  - Because this leader enforces arbitrary and unnecessary restrictions and fixates on grats, while swallowing camels ( Matthew 23:23)

Next, we will consider what leadership is. Leadership is:

- Being a servant. Why?
  - Because the servant leader understands that he was appointed to serve and not to be served ( Matthew 20:26-27)
  - Because the servant leader will be all too familiar with the homes and hospitals of the sick and dying.
  - Because the servant leader knows his flock, and they know him.
  - Because the servant leader is a worker on the front line anticipating the words of his Lord, "Well done, good and faithful servant." ( Matthew 25:21, 23)
- Being a shepherd. Why?
  - Because shepherds "feed" ( 1 Peter 5:2)
  - Because shepherds "protect" ( Titus 1:9-11)
  - Because shepherds "lead" ( John 10:3-4)
  - Because shepherds "know" the sheep individually ( John 10:3)
  - Because shepherds "seek lost sheep" ( Luke 15:3-7)

- Because shepherds “are with the sheep” ( John 10:12-13)
- Shepherds “are willing to give their lives for the sheep” ( John 10:11, 15-18)
- Being a participative leader. Why?
  - Because they will spend time listening and carefully weighing what they hear.
  - They will be willing to try new things that are not a departure from scripture.

May we all pray for our present leaders and for the future leaders of our congregation to be “men after God’s own heart.” May they be participative, shepherding, servants and wonderful examples for us to follow. God bless our leaders!

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