

Leadership in a World That does not Recognize Jesus

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WELS Women's Ministry Conference
July 28-30, 2024



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1. What is Leadership

- a. The ability to influence others.
- b. We all have unique abilities, areas where we excel, topics where we have expertise, where we each can influence others. Take a moment to think about your unique skills and abilities.
- c. And as followers of Jesus, we are all given spiritual gifts, chosen by the Spirit especially for you. Gifts that build up the Church. (1 Corinthians 12:7-11 shows that each of us individually receive these gifts.) Take a moment to think about your spiritual gifts.
- d. You, as a Christian Leader, are empowered to direct with your unique skills and abilities while employing your personalized spiritual gifts. A powerful combination that is unique only to you!
- e. And as a leader you promote what is right, good and supportive. As a Christian leader, as you serve, your actions will always be pointing others to the hope that we have in Christ.

Summary: A Christian Leader, in their own unique way, uses their abilities in a positive manner while promoting Christ crucified for the building up of the Church through their own spiritual gifts.

2. A Leader Yet a Servant

- a. Leadership is vision, setting direction, and decision-making. All these leadership traits places the leader ahead of others. These traits set the leader out in front.
- b. Jesus came to serve (Matthew 20:28) and to give himself for us. And we are called to serve too (Luke 22:26). To become the lowest to serve all.
- c. This seems to be a contradiction, to lead but to serve, until we consider that Christian leadership is aimed at serving those around us, building up others while demonstrating Christ's love.
- d. And keeping our focus on the goal, our heavenly kingdom, may we always remember how Jesus responded to Pilate, our kingdom is not of this world (John 18:36).
- e. And should we have success, let us not boast in ourselves but in Him who gave the skill, ability, opportunity, and all things. Boast always in Christ, point to Him (Galatians 6:14).

Summary: While being a leader and a servant may seem like a contradiction, the Christian Leader keeps the good of all others as the motivation while pointing towards Jesus as the enabler and the goal.

3. The Christian Leadership Challenge



- a. The world did not, and still does not, recognize Jesus as Lord of all (John 1:10).
- b. As disciples of Jesus, we are connected to Jesus as signified by bearing the name of Christian (Acts 11:26).
- c. There is enmity between Christ's followers and this world resulting from the fall into sin, which continues today (Genesis 3:15).
- d. And we should not be surprised by the trials that result from our faith (1 Peter 4:12-19).
- e. As a Christian Leader expect the reactions to your actions to be sharper and challenges stronger, this is part of being a Christian Leader. Reflect on this point for a moment, have you experienced strong response because of your faith? How do you discern between a leadership criticism versus a cross due Christian values. Does one cause you to question the other?

Summary: The world is hostile to God's Word. A Christian Leader embracing Christ while influencing others in this world should especially be ready for a strong and not so subtle pushback from the world.

4. Thy Will be Done



- a. A leader will see things first, and with vision see how things could be.
- b. However, worldly influence based on jealousy, pride, envy, etc. often block the implementation of the leadership action that is aimed at helping. How frustrating! What is a Christian Leader to do?
- c. Keep in mind that the Lord is in control of all things, since the creation of time and foundation of the world, and his plans are perfect, His will be done (Luke 11:2).
- d. And as the Lord has not given up on us, though we disappoint with our sinful nature, let us not give up in serving all through those skills given to us from above (Galatians 6:9).
- e. Persist in doing good. Persist in applying your unique skills as a demonstration of our trust in Him who has enabled us, provided for us, and uses us in His service (Romans 2:7).

Summary: We can see how to make it happen, but often worldly influences resist your efforts. Persist in using all your leadership skills to help others, demonstrating Jesus's love. His will be done!

5. More than Conquerors



- a. Consider Daniel and the Lion's Den (Daniel 6). God blessed Daniel's many years in service as he helped his people in captivity, however, those who envied his success resorted to attacking Daniel. Daniel is a great example of a Christian Leader.
- b. Always stand in awe of what God can do, and in the power of the Gospel, and rejoice in His ways and plans (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Romans 11:20-21, James 4:7-10).
- c. Then like Daniel in his upper room turn your thoughts, concerns and prayers in faith to the Lord (Romans 1:16-17).
- d. And trust in the Lord always for He is the Eternal Rock (Isaiah 26:4).
- e. For we are more than conquerors through faith in Christ (Romans 8:37).

Summary: Earthly leaders expect to be rewarded. Christian Leaders in faith lean on Christ and carry out the support of others while prayerfully trusting in the Lord, knowing that in the end we will stand with Jesus in the glory of heaven forever.

6. In Conclusion



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1. You, as a Christian Leader, have a unique combination of skills and spiritual gifts. A powerful combination that is uniquely you! For opportunities that the Lord gives to impact others while building up the Church.
2. A Christian Leader serves all. Leading and serving may sound like a contradiction until consideration is given to the motivation. The goal is to positively impact all others while pointing to Jesus as Lord of all.
3. Leadership will always invoke a response as it results in change. However, the world will be especially resistant to Christian Leadership, just as it was to Jesus during his ministry.
4. In our vocation and service love everyone, serve everyone, persist in doing good, trust the Lord in all you do. The Lord will bless your efforts as per His perfect plan, His will be done!
5. Finally, remember that earthly leaders look for rewards. Christian Leaders know of their sure and certain reward of eternal life which is already secure through faith in Jesus. Carry out your work, using the leadership skills that are uniquely yours so that many others hear of Jesus have the same eternal hope.



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