

Principle 1

THE MAJOR PURPOSE OF LEADERSHIP

There are numerous purposes that drive leadership within the church, but the major one is the *glorification of God*. Everything else is secondary to this magnificent purpose. Paul wrote: *Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen (Eph. 3:21).*

Jesus affirmed that we are to be the “light of the world”: *Let your light so shine before me, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven (Matt. 5:16).*

In every situation a leader must ask: *How will this action/thought bring GLORY to God?*

We must be like Jesus: *And I seek not mine own glory: there is one that seeketh and judgeth (Jno. 8:50).*

NOTES

OBSERVATIONS

VERSES

APPLICATION

Selfishness is an enemy of an attitude that glorifies God. It has no place in the heart of a godly leader. How do our programs glorify God? How may we improve them?

How does our attendance glorify God? How can we improve it? _____

How does our giving glorify God? How can we improve it? _____

Principle 2
THE OBJECTIVE OF LEADERSHIP

Just as there are many purposes of leadership, there are also many objectives of leadership. The major one, however, is to perpetuate God's eternal vision.

It has become almost a "fad" in the church to create a "vision statement." This is patterned after the approach of businesses. It's okay, but God has already given us our eternal vision. It is found in the Old Testament book of Isaiah: *And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow into it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he shall teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem (2:2, 3).*

Leaders must perpetuate the eternal vision that God has given the church.

NOTES

OBSERVATIONS

VERSES

APPLICATION

Take every program and activity in your congregation and find the answer to this question: ***How does this relate to the eternal vision God has given the church?*** Here are some sample questions to get you started:

How does our visitation program relate to the eternal vision God has given the church?_____

How does the disbursement of our finances relate to the eternal vision God has given us?

How does our education program support the eternal vision?_____

How do our goals and plans relate to the eternal vision God has given the church?_____

How does our growth affirm the eternal vision God has given the church?_____

Principle 3

WHERE ALL LEADERSHIP BEGINS

This may come as surprise to some, but leadership doesn't begin with budgets, charts, plans, or such like actions. All leadership begins with the leadership of self.

If a leader can't lead himself, how can he lead others successfully? It is in the leading of self that a leader gets his first experiences in the art and science of leadership.

Paul told the young leader-evangelist Timothy that he was to be an example of many things (1 Tim. 4:12). This could only come through practicing the virtues on self.

Leaders must practice what they teach and require of others. Paul wrote: *Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? Thou that preachest a man shall not steal, dost thou steal? (Rom. 2:21).*

Self-leadership is an exercise in the discipline of self (cf. 2 Pet. 1:5-11). Where are you leading yourself? Where have you led yourself?

NOTES

OBSERVATIONS

VERSES

APPLICATION

Take a few minutes and conduct a personal self-examination relative to your self-leadership. Ask and answer these questions:

How successful have you been in leading yourself the way God desires? _____

Do others respect your self-leadership? __Yes
__No. How do you know? _____

How do you daily go about leading yourself?__

What is your biggest need in the area of self-leadership? _____

How do you plan to become better at leading yourself? _____

How did Jesus lead Himself? _____

Principle 4
WHAT LEADERSHIP REVOLVES
AROUND

There are many catalyses relating to leadership, but none, however, are as powerful as one word: INFLUENCE. When you visit any group of people, both in and out of the church setting, and discover who has the dominant influence, you have found the base of leadership.

In some congregations the influence resides in the teenager, in some the aged, while in others it is in the people who have the money. They influence in subtle ways, which is at best pseudo leadership. They may stop or launch a program, depending on their influence.

Influence relates to what a person SAYS and what a person DOES. What he does is the more powerful of the two.

This is why leaders must cultivate and maintain a positive, Christ like influence. If you have lost your influence, you have lost your leadership.

NOTES

OBSERVATIONS

VERSES

APPLICATION

Take a few minutes and respond to this application of our study about influence:

Who do you think has the most influence in your congregation? Why? _____

How does a person gain influence? _____

What kind of influence do you have? _____

How may a leader improve his influence? _____

What are some destroyers of influence? _____

Who has had the greatest influence on your life? Why? _____

Principle 5
EXPRESSION OF LEADERSHIP

Jesus made it clear that He did not come to be waited on like a dignitary or someone special, but, rather, *..the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many (Mk. 10:45)*. Jesus came to serve others; and He wants us to serve.

The greatest example of servanthood is when God incarnate—Jesus in the flesh—got on His knees and washed the feet of the men who followed Him (cf. Jno. 13:1-17).

In our “I’m Number One” world it’s difficult to find persons who desire to serve others, much less leaders who want to serve others. We all want to be served, but this is not the way of effective leadership.

NOTES

OBSERVATIONS

VERSES

APPLICATION

Here are some exercises to help you gain the most from this lesson on serving as a leader:

Why did Jesus choose to be a servant and not a political dignitary?_____

Who is the person in your congregation that comes to mind when you think about servants?

How do others think of you as a servant?_____

How does a person learn how to become a servant?_____

How can your congregation promote the need for servanthood?_____

APPLICATION

***Principle 6
LEADERS ARE VISIONARIES***

Leadership that pleases God and gets things done is visionary in nature. These are the dreams and plans that take the church beyond status quo or rutsville. The prophet Joel spoke of a time when old men would have dreams and young men would have visions (cf. Joel 2:28-32). Peter said that time started on the day of Pentecost (cf. Acts 2:14-38).

Jesus was a visionary; He said, *Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also: for therefore came I forth (Mk. 1:38)*. He gave us a vision that encompassed the whole world (Matt. 28:18-20). That's big!

Leaders with vision connect God's eternal vision with ways and means of getting the Gospel to the lost. This takes prayer, planning and activated goals.

NOTES

OBSERVATION

VERSES

Here are some ways to make application of what was studied in this lesson:

What vision do you have for your church?_____

What is your personal vision for yourself?_____

How can you train your congregation to have a dynamic vision?_____

How does the local vision relate to God's eternal vision?_____

What hinders a vision from becoming a reality?_____

What is your next step as a visionary?_____

Principle 7
LEADERS ARE FAITH WALKERS

A leader may have many things going for him: organizational skills, speaking abilities, charm, knowledge of the Bible, and much more, but if he doesn't have FAITH he can't be pleasing unto God (cf. Heb. 11:6).

A reading of the eleventh chapter of Hebrews will reveal the kind of faith God wants His followers to have: An active faith! A faith that works (James 2).

When we depend on our own resources for success in kingdom business, we have fallen into a trap—God won't bless us. Our faith must be larger than the balance in our check books.

Leaders who please God walk forward by faith, leading followers into new adventures for the spread of the kingdom (2 Cor. 5:7).

NOTES

OBSERVATIONS

VERSES

APPLICATION

Here are some response items that will enhance your study of this leadership principle:

What is your definition of faith? _____

Discuss how Hebrews 11 relates to your actions as a leader: _____

What BIG faith projects do you have going in your congregation? _____

If you knew you couldn't fail, what would you attempt for the Lord? _____

What are some enemies of faith? _____

How can one increase his faith? _____

Principle 8
LEADERS ARE RESULTS ORIENTED

APPLICATION

It has been said that if you don't know where you are going you will end up somewhere else. This is why leaders must be result oriented. They know what they are working to achieve in each program and activity in the church. Outcome is not left to chance.

We must not confuse busyness or activity with results. One may wear himself out and not accomplish anything worthwhile for the Lord.

Results must be spelled out before a project is launched, as well as monitored along the way, and evaluated when finished. The Bible affirms that "we reap what we sow" (Gal. 5:6-8).

At the core of every effort is the question:
What result does God want from this effort?

NOTES

OBSERVATIONS

VERSES

Here are some response items that will help you cement this lesson on results in your mind and heart:

How do you determine what result you want from a program or activity?_____

Why do we sometimes neglect identifying the results we want?_____

What activities are you presently engaged in that aren't producing results? Why?_____

Why do we confuse busyness with results?_____

How can you become more results oriented?_____

What results will you get from this study?_____

Principle 9
LEADERS ARE EQUIPPERS

APPLICATION

Leadership is not just about doing things as a leader, it is also about training and equipping others to do ministry effectively. This is known as teamwork. Leaders develop team members who do their share in reaching the goals that have been established.

The church is made up of many members who need to be prepared for the work of ministry (cf. 1 Cor. 12:13-31).

God has not left this training and equipping to chance, He has established an order for seeing that it is accomplished. He has placed elders, preachers, and teachers in the church for this purpose (cf. Eph. 4:11-16).

The church of the “after the next generation” is dependant on what takes place today relative to training people.

NOTES

OBSERVATIONS

VERSES

Use the following items to improve your understanding of this subject:

What is your present status as an equipper in the church?_____

Why is equipping the church so important?____

How were you equipped for your leadership role in the church?_____

How is your congregation equipping persons to be leaders in the future?_____

How does mentoring relate to equipping?_____

Name two persons you are presently involved with in an equipping capacity:_____

Principle 10
LEADERS ARE PRAYER WARRIORS

APPLICATION

The early church was a praying church: *And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayer (Acts 2:42)*. Read the book of Acts to see how the dynamic power of prayer was expressed by first century Christians.

One man said, "I have so much to do today that if I don't pray an hour I won't get anything done." What a great attitude!

Few things are as vital to effective leadership as prayer. Leaders must pray about all things, as well as for those things that are in God's will for us (cf. Jas. 4:13-17).

Decisions must be made only after a season of Bible study and fervent prayer (Jas. 5:16). We must "pray without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17).

NOTES

OBSERVATIONS

VERSES

Here are some work exercises for this lesson on prayer:

How much time does your leadership team give to prayer? _____

How much time do you give each day to personal prayer? _____

Give some examples of how God has answered your prayers: _____

What were the prayer habits of Jesus? _____

How can the church become more involved in prayer? _____

What is one of your major prayer burdens at this time? _____

Principle 11
LEADERS WORK WITH GOD

APPLICATION

The church leadership team is larger than one might suppose. Not only does it contain those persons qualified in the local church, it also includes our heavenly Father.

Church leaders are partners with God. This changes how we view leadership activities. Paul wrote: *For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building (1 Cor. 3:9; cf. 2 Cor. 6:1).*

Working WITH God is the greatest honor a person can have bestowed upon him. It sets him aside as unique, with an eternal mission.

As workers together with God; it is to God that we must look for direction and help (Eph. 3:20). God is the Leader of all leaders!

NOTES

OBSERVATIONS

VERSES

Take a few minutes and work these points of application for this lesson:

What is implied by "We are workers together with God"?: _____

How did you learn to work with God? _____

How do you help others to learn how to work with God? _____

How do you feel about being a partner with God? _____

What is the most important thing to remember relative to working with God? Why? _____

How does God want us to work with Him? _____

Principle 12
LEADERS ARE LOVERS

It's sad and sign of our times that the word "lover" has been limited to sexual relationships. It's a good word when applied biblically to leaders. Jesus said, *By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one to another (Jno. 13:35)*. Leaders must love!

In his first letter to the Corinthians, Paul exposed many of their problems. He also gave them the solution: LOVE (cf. 1 Corinthians 13). Love was the greatest of all virtues: *And now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love (1 Coe. 13:13)*.

The **Great Commandment** tells us the nature and extent of God approved love: *And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these (Mk. 12:30, 31)*.

NOTES

OBSERVATIONS

VERSES

APPLICATION

Here are some ideas on this lesson relating to love:

How have we abused the word "lover"? _____

What was "new" about Jesus' command in John 13:34-36? _____

Why is it difficult for some leaders to love their followers? _____

How can we learn to love the unloveable? _____

How do you obey the "Great Commandment"?

How can we teach and train others to love more? _____

Principle 13
LEADERS ARE DOERS OF THE WORD

APPLICATION

Talk is cheap!

It's easy to sit in a room and talk about what you need to do, or what you are going to do, but it's another thing to actually DO something.

I venture to say that most of us aren't doing what we already know; yet, we still collect information. Why?

The Bible is a library of 66 books that must not only be studied, but where applicable, applied. James wrote: *But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves (Jas. 1:22).*

If we are not careful we will let the "We don't have a program" hinder us from being doers of the word. When we read the word and understand it, the next issue is applying it to our lives and ministry.

NOTES

OBSERVATIONS

VERSES

Here are some work exercises that will help you get more from this study of being a doer of the word:

What does the word "doer" mean? _____

How can someone else do our work for us? _____

Why do we depend so much on organized programs? _____

How does Matthew 7:21-23 relate to this study? _____

How do you go about doing the word of God? _____

How does being a doer of the word relate to being results oriented? _____

Principle 14
LEADERS COMMUNICATE
EFFECTIVELY

More confusion is created by a lack of communication, or poor communication, than perhaps any other thing in the leaders work. It's an ongoing challenge to get a message across to followers. It takes more than a quick pulpit announcement or an article in the bulletin.

Leaders must communicate on the public level as well as on the personal level. At the center of personal communication is the ability to be an attentive listener. James wrote: *Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath (Jas 1:19).*

In order for communication to be effective it must go through five stages: (1) awareness, (2) understanding, (3) caring, (4) dissatisfaction, and (5) action.

NOTES

OBSERVATIONS

VERSES

APPLICATION

Take time to fully respond to the items in this work area:

How would you be rated as a listener? _____

How well does your congregation do in communicating its various messages? _____

How can you improve the communication in your congregation? _____

How well does your leadership team communicate within itself? _____

How much time should be given to developing an effective approach to communicating? _____

How can you improve the communication in your congregation? _____

Principle 15
LEADERS MUST DELEGATE

APPLICATION

Moses learned that no man can do all the work that needs to be done by himself (cf. Ex. 18:13-27). Jethro, his father-in-law, taught him the need for appointing helpers. The model in Exodus 18 has been used by military, businesses, governments, religions, etc., as a successful approach to delegation.

Jesus was a believer in delegation. He chose 12 men to train and delegate the work of ministry to while He was on earth (cf. Mk. 1:16-21; Matt. 16:13-19).

When a problem arose over the neglect of widows in Acts 6, the Apostles delegated the work to deacons (Acts 6:1-8).

Elders have been delegated authority to serve under the Chief-shepherd, Jesus Christ (cf. 1 Pet. 5:1-7).

The word must be given (delegated) to faithful men so they can preach and teach it to others (cf. 2 Tim. 2:1-3).

Leaders must learn how to successfully delegate work and authority to others.

Take some time to work through this application exercise. It will help you gain from this lesson:

Why is delegation a problem in some churches?

How do you delegate tasks to others? _____

How does trust relate to delegation? _____

How does competency relate to delegation? _____

Why are some leaders afraid to delegate? _____

How does accountability relate to delegation? _____

NOTES

OBSERVATIONS

VERSES

Principle 16
LEADERS ARE LIFELONG LEARNERS

A leader can't be where he hasn't gone; he can't teach what he doesn't know. In our fast-paced, changing world, the need for continual study by leaders is greater than it has ever been.

While it is true that the Bible never changes relative to being true; it is true, however, that the context of how to apply it changes. The ways we deliver it must be continually reviewed and updated.

Leaders must be lifelong learners. They must dig deeper and deeper into the word, as well as studying leadership principles (cf. 2 Tim. 2:15). There is no blessing in ignorance or remaining status quo.

The apostle Paul was a lifelong learner: *The cloak that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring with thee, and the books, but especially the parchments (2 Tim. 4:13).*

In time all leaders must become teachers (cf. Heb. 5:12-6:6).

NOTES

OBSERVATIONS

VERSES

APPLICATION

It's application time! Take some time and work through these items. They will help you gain more from this study:

Why do certain professions place an emphasis on persons being involved in continuing education? _____

How do you continue your education as a leader? _____

How can the church promote lifelong learning?

Why do some leaders think they already know it all? _____

Why does the church need an ongoing leadership training program? _____

Why did Paul want his books and parchments?

Principle 17
LEADERS FOLLOW JESUS' MODEL OF LEADERSHIP

The leader of the church is Jesus (Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:22, 23). He alone has “all authority” in His church (Matt. 28:18-20). We must give special attention and obedience to what He has taught and commanded (cf. Jno. 12:48; 14:15).

Paul said: *Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ (1 Cor. 11:1; cf. 2 Thess. 3:7, 9).*

Jesus issued this order to men in the first century: *And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men (Mk. 1:17).*

Leaders must have “the attitude of Christ” in order to follow Him (cf. Phil. 2:4-8). This requires a decision and a studying of His life and actions. The church and the world need to see Christ-like leadership.

NOTES

OBSERVATIONS

VERSES

APPLICATION

Take a few minutes and work on this application exercise. It will help you gain the most from this lesson on being a leader like Jesus:

Why is Jesus the perfect model of leadership? _____

How can you learn to lead like Jesus did? _____

List the five top leadership qualities you love most about Jesus?

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

Who is the most “Christ-like” leader you know? Why? _____

What are you going to do to become more like Jesus as a leader? _____

How does your team function as an example of Christ-like leadership? _____

APPLICATION

Principle 18

LEADERS MUST BE ENTHUSIASTIC

“A man with a rusty wrench and enthusiasm can do more work than five men with a box full of the best tools but are void of enthusiasm for the job.”

Enthusiasm comes from the Greek word *enthousiasmos*, and denotes “God within” and, thus inspired, not like an apostle, but zeal for a cause. Relative to Christianity it means to be excited about God’s work and one’s relationship with Him.

Paul wrote: *And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men (Col. 3:23)*. The wise man wrote: *Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might...(Eccl. 9:10)*.

To the Corinthians Paul wrote: *For I know the forwardness of your mind...and your zeal hath provoked very many (2 Cor. 9:2)*.

The great football coach, Vince Lombardi said, *If you aren’t fired with enthusiasm, you will be fired with enthusiasm*.

NOTES

OBSERVATIONS

VERSES

Here’s your application work sheet for the subject of this lesson:

How would you rate your enthusiasm? _____

Why should we be zealous for God’s work? _____

How is the best way to develop enthusiasm? _____

Who is the most enthusiastic person you know? _____

What is “pep rally” enthusiasm? _____

How does faith in God generate enthusiasm? _____

How do you maintain your enthusiasm during the negative times? _____

Principle 19
LEADERS MUST BE FEARLESS

When Jesus said, *Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom (Lk. 12:32)*, He was addressing one of the major issues facing leaders, then, and now.

God has a special place reserved for cowards in the lake of fire (cf. Rev. 21:8). Paul wrote: *For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind (2 Tim. 1:7)*.

Leaders must not be afraid to stand for the truth in both attitude and action. There is no place to let fear stall or hinder God's work. We must not worry about what people will think, or whether or not we will fail. We must be like Paul who wasn't afraid to make enemies because of the truth (Gal. 4:16). Always speaking the truth in love (Eph. 4:15).

NOTES

OBSERVATIONS

VERSES

APPLICATION

Take a few minutes and respond to the items listed in this application section of this lesson:

Why are some leaders fearful? _____

How fearful are you as a leader? _____

How does perfect love cast out fear (1 Jno. 4:18)? _____

How much fear exists in your leadership team?

How is the best way to overcome fear? _____

What is your greatest fear as a leader? _____

How do you overcome personal fears? _____

Principle 20
LEADERS MUST BE SOLD ON BEING BOLD

APPLICATION

In our last lesson we studied fearfulness. In this lesson we want to look at boldness. In our quest to restore New Testament Christianity this must be a priority.

The leaders in the first century church were recognized for their boldness: *Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marveled; and took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus (Acts 4:13).*

First century leaders prayed for boldness (Acts 4:29).

First century leaders spoke the word with all boldness (Acts 4:31, 32).

The book of Acts closes with Paul proclaiming the word with boldness (Acts 28:31).

Boldness is not ugliness or rudeness, but, rather “speaking the truth in love” (Eph. 4:15).

NOTES

OBSERVATIONS

VERSES

Here is the work section for this lesson. Take time to complete the following exercises:

What is your definition of boldness? _____

What’s the boldest thing you have ever done for the Lord? _____

How bold is your congregation? _____

How can you increase your boldness? _____

Who is the boldest person you know? _____

What acts of boldness should the church move up to? _____

What do you plan to do as an improved act of boldness? _____

Principle 21
LEADERS GO FOR GOALS

Nothing is more fundamental to leadership than setting goals, both personal and organizational. It has been estimated that close to 85 percent of church leaders don't have personal goals. I wonder if this is also true relative to setting goals for the church.

God exemplifies goal setting:

- 1) Before the foundation of the world He planned to save mankind (Eph. 1:3-7);
- 2) The scheme of redemption was announced in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:15).
- 3) He promised to bless all nations through Abraham (Gen. 12 ff.).

Jesus set goals:

- 1) He had preaching goals (Mk. 1:38).
- 2) He predicted His death (Jno. 12:32; 14:1-7).

The apostle Paul set goals:

- 1) "I press toward the mark..." (Phil. 3:11-14).
- 2) He set a goal to go to Rome (Acts).

NOTES

OBSERVATIONS

VERSES

APPLICATION

Here is another opportunity for you to gain more from this lesson on goal setting:

Why do so few leaders set personal goals?_____

How many personal goals are you presently working on?_____

Discuss the goals you have for the church:_____

Why do most people resist goals?_____

How does your leadership team set and reach goals?_____

How can we train the church to be better goal setters?_____

What are some of the other goals Jesus set?_____

Principle 22
LEADER MUST MAKE DECISIONS

APPLICATION

Life is made up of one decision after another. It isn't a surprise then to find leaders being confronted with multitudes of decisions every day. Some of these are minor and some are major; all require thought, time, energy and action.

The prophet Joel said this about decisions: *multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decisions: for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision (Joel 3:14).*

The church is where it is today because of the decisions that were made yesterday. "The decision not to make a decision is a decision not to take action." Decisions can't be avoided; this is why we must be deliberate in making them.

Leaders must work on mastering the art of making timely and wise decisions. The Lord's church depends on them. Since Eve got humanity into trouble by making the wrong decision, leaders must guard against following her example.

NOTES

OBSERVATIONS

VERSES

Take a few minutes and work through this application exercise to gain maximum benefits from this lesson:

How quickly do you make decisions?_____

What process do you go through to make a decision?_____

What are some of the decisions your leadership team needs to make in the near future?_____

Why are some leaders afraid to make decisions?_____

Discuss Joshua 24:15 and how it relates to making decisions:_____

Why do we sometimes make mistakes in making decisions?_____

APPLICATION

Principle 23

LEADERS MUST SOLVE PROBLEMS

“Problems are like taxes—they never go away!”

Some leaders believe in **Murphy’s Law**: *If anything can go wrong, it will go wrong.* This is not pessimism but a realistic attitude toward the real world that leadership must function in.

Some leaders approach problems like they do health issue—they try to ignore them—hoping by so doing they will go away. This rarely happens.

The church in the first century had to deal with problems (cf. Acts 15 & Acts 6, etc.). There are some basic steps that will assist in solving problems:

- 1) Identify the problem.
- 2) Eliminate “what is not” the problem.
- 3) Eliminate “what didn’t cause” the problem.
- 4) Clearly define the problem.
- 5) Identify the consequences.
- 6) Find God’s solutions.

NOTES

OBSERVATIONS

VERSES

Take a few thoughtful minutes and work the following exercise on this lesson.

Why is life full of problems?_____

How do you handle problems in your life?_

Why do some leaders try to ignore problems?_____

What unsolved problems is your leadership team presently facing?_____

What was the problem in Acts 15? Acts 6?_

How does decision making relate to problem solving?_____

What are some of the major problems church leaders tend to ignore?_____

Principle 24
LEADERS NEED A SENSE OF HUMOR

It was said of one church leader: *If he ever smiles it will crack his face. He takes life too seriously.* While it is true there are some serious issues in life that leaders must face; this doesn't mean that all of life is a journey with a frown—a smile turned upside down.

Some leaders act as though there is an eleventh commandment: *Thou shall be stoic at all times.* While the Bible condemns foolishness (Mk. 7:21-24); it at the same time approves honorable, clean humor. *A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken (Prov. 15:13; cf. 15; 17:22).*

Jesus used humor when He referred to Herod as a “fox” (Lk. 13:32); and when He used the illustration of a camel going through the eye of a needle (Mk. 10:25).

There is a time and place for leaders to lighten up and enjoy life (Eccl. 3:4).

NOTES

OBSERVATIONS

VERSES

APPLICATION

Take some time and work this application exercise; it will help you gain more from this lesson.

Why is a sense of humor important to leadership? _____

What's the difference between a sense of humor and a jokester? _____

Why do some leaders always make a “joke” out of everything? _____

How do you express your humor? _____

What is meant by a “sour puss” leader? _____

When is humor out of place? _____

How may a sense of humor be developed? _____

Principle 25
LEADERS SHARE THE GOSPEL

By no means does it reduce the importance of leaders being evangelistic because we bring up the principle this late. It is the driving mission of the church. The Great Commission is still bound and in need of fulfillment in the 21st century (cf. Mk. 16:15, 16; Matt. 28:18-20).

Since evangelism is a major priority of the local church, it follows, therefore, that leaders must set the example in sharing the Gospel. It begins at the “top” and works its way down through the ranks of membership.

The local church can only grow numerically through additions via the new birth of water and Spirit (Jno. 3:1-7; 1 Cor. 12:18; Acts 2:47).

NOTES

OBSERVATIONS

VERSES

APPLICATION

Take a few minutes and work the following application exercise; it will help you remember and apply the lesson:

What has caused the church to reduce her efforts in evangelism?_____

How are you presently involved in sharing the Gospel?_____

How active is your congregation in sharing the Gospel?_____

How can you improve the evangelism efforts in your congregation?_____

Where does evangelism begin? Why?_____

How evangelistic is your entire leadership team?_____

Application
**LEADING THE CHURCH IN
GOD'S AGENDA**

It was business as usual, a rerun of scores of past church business meetings in which leaders had come together to discuss the “business” of the church: attendance, finances, programs, etc. This time, however, a new leader sat at the large executive table.

About halfway through the meeting the new leader raised his hand, and when acknowledged, said, “Why are we here? I’ve sat here and listened to us discuss everything from lawn care to communion bread, tasks that should have been delegated. When are we going to get God’s agenda for the church on the table?” The other leaders stared at him.

“What do you mean?” a fellow-leader quickly responded, “We’re knee deep in the work of this church. I don’t think you understand what these meetings are about. I don’t mean to be critical...”

The new leader responded, “I haven’t heard anything about the priorities God has given the church: The priorities of evangelism, edification, and benevolence.” A discussion followed his statement and continued for over an hour. The new leader left very discouraged.

When are we going to get God’s agenda for the church on the table? This is the core question all leadership teams must answer; it is the foundation for all efforts in the church. There are numerous things that can keep leaders busy, but if they’re not perpetuating the agenda given by God to the church, they should be dropped or reprioritized.

Agenda is defined by *The Encarta World Dictionary* as (noun): 1. List of things to do... 2. Matters needing attention... 3. Somebody’s particular motive (p.30). God has given us a “list of things to do,” as well as “matters needing attention.” His motives are singular: the redemption of mankind (Luke 19:10). This is why we must be sure His agenda is our agenda; His way is our way; His vision is our vision.

In order for the church to pursue God’s agenda, it must know what it is and how to pursue it in a biblical manner.

What Is God’s Agenda For the church?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

How Are We Pursuing God’s Agenda?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

How Can We Do A Better Job?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

What Are Our First Steps In Developing a More Dynamic Agenda?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

What Resources Do We Need?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Timelines:

1. _____

CHECK OUT THE AUTHOR'S
BOOKSTORE FOR ADDITIONAL
GREAT BOOKS OF LEADERSHIP.