
THE HEART OF SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP

THE NATURE AND ROLE OF LEADERS IN BUILDING COMMUNITIES OF MISSION

Assumptions

- Leadership in the church exists at many levels
- Scripture should be our primary guide in working out the *principles* of leadership
- Practical experience and contemporary leadership practice may offer helpful wisdom in how to apply the principles of leadership in our particular context

Discuss

1. Who do you think of as leaders in the Bible?
2. Who has helped you in your journey of faith?
3. Why did they make such an impact on you - what did they do? how did they do it?

The nature of spiritual leadership

- Spiritually:
 - not 'sorted and strong' ... (2 Corinthians 4.7-12; 11.30; 12.9-10)
 - ... but dependent on God's grace
- Attitude:
 - not overbearing in authority ... (Mark 10.35-45)
 - ... but servants of all (2 Corinthians 4.5)

[Interlude – 1 Thessalonians 2.1-12]

what words and phrases does Paul use to describe his mission?

what does leadership look like as brother / mother / father?

- Relationally:
 - not employment-style CEOs ...
 - ... but family members – disciple-makers who share their lives with those they are seeking to lead (1 Thessalonians 2.1-12)
 - the example of Jesus

- Character:
 - Not sitting light to sin ...
 - ... but living a godly life (Titus 1.5-9; 1 Timothy 3.1-13)

The role of leadership in communities of mission – Ephesians 4.7-13

- All believers are given gifts by the grace of God (7 cf 1 Pet 4:10)
- Leadership gifts are given so as to equip all believers to use their gifts (11-12a)
 - Apostle – in this case pioneer who builds on gospel foundations
 - Prophet – discern the particular wisdom of God for the church at a point of time and bring it to them
 - Evangelist – effective in drawing people in and presenting Christ to them
 - Pastor – makes sure people are fed, watered and looked after
 - Teacher –skilled in deepening understanding of the gospel and the scriptures
- As all the believers use their gifts, the church is led to unity and maturity (12b-13)

Some practical reflections on leadership

- Leaders need to be excellent and intentional listeners
- Being in leadership doesn't mean you have all the wisdom
- It's difficult to change people if they don't know that you love them first
- Our leadership style is influenced by our God-given personality
- Discerning and communicating vision