

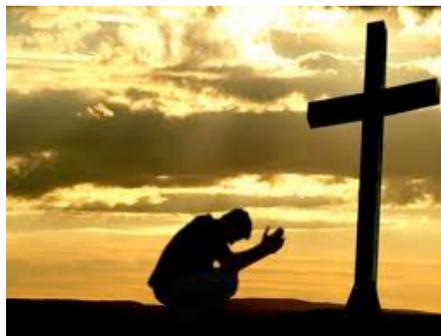
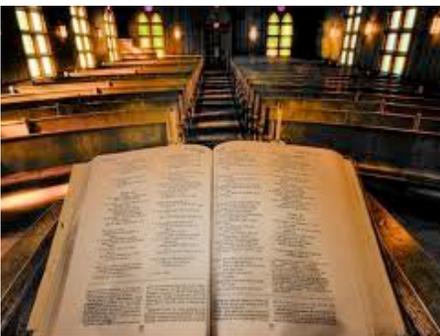


A LEADERSHIP MANIFESTO

At Leroy Community Chapel we strive to be men and women led by the Spirit, filled with the Word, and living cross-centered, so that we can love, lead, and serve others well to the glory of God.

"I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD ... WHO LEADS YOU IN THE WAY YOU SHOULD GO"

(Isaiah 48:17)



WHAT IS A LEADERSHIP MANIFESTO?

A manifesto is defined as “a public declaration of principles and intentions.” Leadership can be simply defined as “a person who guides or directs others.” Therefore it is our desire to lay out a declaration of Biblical principles that would lay a simple and clear foundation for how we are to guide others in the way of the Gospel. So much has been written on leadership, and it is not our desire to re-invent anything, offer some new approach, nor give the one-and-only comprehensive document to answer every leadership concern. We just want to be good leaders and build good leaders. And it seems like a good place to start to have a guiding document to which we can all aspire. Yes ... this is an aspirational document. None of us have arrived, nor will we this side of heaven. But the strength of the Church through the ages, and for future generations, largely rises or falls on the commitment to work hard at obeying the apostle Paul’s admonition in 2 Timothy 2:2 - *“And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”* This commitment to practice the truth in our own lives and pass it on to others is not for a select few, but for everyone who has been entrusted with the Gospel. Child of God ... You have been given a great gift and you are guiding and directing others. Leroy Community Chapel is committed to leadership development for the sake of healthy individuals and families, a loving body, and a vibrant Gospel outreach into the community and world.

What Matters Most?

Let me be as clear and direct as I possibly can - The most important thing regarding the issue of Biblical leadership is being a man or woman who seeks God with all your heart. It’s not about skill first, not about personality first, not about experience or proven influence first. It is first and foremost about being a worshipper of God who walks humbly with his God. There is no class, lecture, or project that turns someone into a Godly man or woman, there is only a commitment to seek God all your days. A desire to keep in step with the Spirit as He teaches, sanctifies, and leads you. A passion to fight sin, walk in holiness, and be a person who believes obedience to God is always his very best option. A hunger to know God, know His Word, and know one’s own heart. And with that a faithfulness that recognizes failure is never final where repentance is a way of life. Our sin is not failure if we are children of God because our sin has been paid in full. Failure is a double-mindedness that lives by external rules, hides the idols of the heart, and wears masks to keep one’s true self hidden away and isolated from the hurt of life and relationship.

There is no perfect leader. The Bible’s teaching related to leadership, if anything, is that men make a mess of things. Jesus Christ is the only perfect Leader (Acts 5:31). No man or woman who is not seeking to walk with Christ can be a good human spiritual leader. Therefore, the Biblical logic is that there is no trick or method of leadership that is fool-proof. There is no “silver bullet” to leadership that makes someone adequate. Leaders come in as many shapes, sizes, personalities, and skill-sets as the men and women God has redeemed to be his sons and daughters. We must all be committed to calling each other back to this foundation and this foundation alone.

“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Matthew 22:36-39

**[1] LEADERSHIP IS ABOUT ...
A Consuming Passion for the Glory of God**

A leader understands that his life is not his own. He is not the master of his universe and orchestrator of his own destiny. Having a deep commitment to a God-centeredness in everything is at the core of Godly leadership. A leader lives for making the fame of Jesus Christ known in his life and through his life. He has died to himself and has been made alive through the work of Christ. And having died, he dies daily to his own flesh, pride, and agenda. God goes to great lengths to empty us of ourselves so that we are useful vessels for His Kingdom. Moses saw (1) the glory of God, (2) in the wilderness. These two things are no accident. God takes us from our control and comfort to make us desperate for Him. Then He shows us how utterly sufficient He is to meet all our needs. A Godly leader trusts God and pleads for the faith to walk accordingly. Do you regularly die to self so that you can live to the glory of God?

***“For you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.”
1 Corinthians 6:20***

**[2] LEADERSHIP IS ABOUT ...
Love**

A leader loves ... plain and simple. People don't welcome the input of someone who does not seek to demonstrate the unconditional qualities of Biblical agape love. What does a leader love? He loves God as His Master, Creator, Father, and King. He loves the Scriptures as the only rule for life and godliness. He loves others with a selfless commitment to their good over his own. He loves those who are in sin as he confronts the sin in grace and truth. He loves those in process as people who have not yet arrived and don't get it all right. He loves the world he lives in with a burden to see it reflect the glory of God rather than the sinfulness of the Fall. He loves those who have yet to embrace the truth of the Gospel with dignity and respect showing them love as image-bearers of God. People are not the enemy, Satan and His lies are! Are you willing to be a courageous leader who loves others with the Divine love with which you've been loved?

***“Keep yourselves in the love of God.”
Jude 21***

**[3] LEADERSHIP IS ABOUT ...
Character**

A leader is a person of character. We have already established the core character of love, now we list three others that become guiding principles for the character of a leader we seek to be and build. *Humility* is the essential expression of the heart that knows who he really is before God and what Christ has done for him. When one understands the work of the cross, and the wickedness of the human heart, there is no room for pride. Pride is one of Satan's greatest traps for men and women seeking to be spiritual leaders. *Honesty* is living before God and before men with authenticity. It doesn't mean that you are perfect, it just means you can speak of that imperfection with those around you as you seek the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit in sanctification. *Steadfastness* is simply keeping at it. Ministry is never about one Sunday, one event, or one conversation. Do others see the day after day consistency of your life lived before the face of God?

***“For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
2 Peter 1:8***

**[4] LEADERSHIP IS ABOUT ...
Growth**

A leader is a person committed to growing. Before you can help anyone else grow, you have to be growing. You can't be giving to others from an empty tank, or regurgitating old food to feed others. A leader is committed to being a life-long learner. He seeks to know his own heart - the idols that motivate him, and the passions that fuel those motives. He will pray for the searching work of the Spirit of God to reveal sin so he can repent and obey. He will be committed to an ongoing pursuit of the Scriptures that keep him rooted and growing in his handling of the truth. He will seek theological study so as to steadily grow in his understanding of God and His plan for the world. In other words, he is committed to loving God with his mind. As he serves others, he is quick to recognize his inadequacies, and rather than shrinking back, pushes forward to grow in wisdom and skill to apply the truths of God to people's lives. Will you commit yourself to being equipped so you can give your very best to the work of the Lord?

***“Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress.”
1 Timothy 4:15***

[5] LEADERSHIP IS ABOUT ... Serving

A leader is a person who serves. This is perhaps where most church leadership papers begin, and yet it is where we end. We recognize that unless you are committed to becoming more and more the person God is making you, that you will not make it in serving others. You will burnout from exhaustion. You will overcommit out of guilt. You will be tossed around by every wave of doctrine in an effort to please people. Quite simply, you will not be serving anyone but yourself, and will do a poor job of guiding others. This is what Jesus speaks of in the “blind leading the blind” (Matthew 15:14). But when you recognize that God meets all your needs, you can sacrificially give to meet the needs of others (2 Corinthians 9:8). And when your acceptance, approval, and identity is not based on anything other than being a child of God, you can courageously serve others, no matter how hard that may be. You can speak the truth in love, admonish the unruly, encourage the faint-hearted, and confront the sinning brother. And when a person, or group of people do leadership this way, then disciples are built. Do you trust the work of God in your life enough to put the spiritual and physical needs of others above your own?

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”
1 Peter 4:10-11

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF ME?

If the Gospel is about a changed heart, and not modified moral behavior, then the motivation to live out the Gospel and pour it into others must also be an intrinsic heart motivation. What this means is that we recognize rules and regulations are a cheap substitute to use to get you all serving. The real motivation for service is a heart that has been overwhelmed by the love of God in Christ, and desires to help others experience that too. We expect you to live out the Gospel as the burning passion of your soul ... and here is what we believe that will look like:

- 1- You will walk with Jesus.** In case you missed it, this is what we care about more than anything!
- 2- You will strive to work out of your rest.** You will be a person of the Word and Prayer, abiding in Christ. Doing more does not equate to loving God more!
- 3- You will remain in fellowship.** We are all members of one another, therefore you will not isolate yourself or neglect the fellowship of the body.
- 4- You will put your family first.** To lead others in the church well, you must serve your family well.
- 5- You will be committed to the LCC Body-Life principles.** Your relationships will be anchored and evaluated by these five principles.

WHAT CAN I EXPECT?

As you serve in the strength that God gives you, we aim to serve you in helping you be those who make an eternal impact in people’s lives.

- *We will not* police you or force you to do things, as that only destroys the work of the Gospel. *We will* seek to encourage you to be all God wants you to be.
- *We will not* use guilt to manipulate you into doing more. *We will* invite you to seek God as to what areas you should be serving in.
- *We will not* make assumptions or pass judgment when you are failing in your responsibilities. *We will* do our best to come and ask you what is really going on.
- *We will not* ask you to serve to the detriment of your own soul, the state of your marriage, or the shepherding of your children. *We will* at times ask you to step back, slow down, and perhaps even take a break to focus on those things that matter most.
- *We will not* create a church culture where leaders lord authority over other people. *We will* seek to get as many people using their gifts as possible for the health and unity of the body.
- *We will not* force equipping opportunities on you. *We will* do our best to provide meaningful classes, labs, and lectures to help you grow in your skill as a leader.