

HOW TO BECOME A BETTER LEADER

(How we can learn from the life of Christ)

Pastor G. Richardson – May 24, 2010

1. **One of the biggest problems in our churches, culture and world today.**
 - a. We have lost the difference between a celebrity and a leader. They are not the same. Celebrities are simply famous, Leaders get things done.
 - b. We have too many celebrities and not enough leaders. Celebrities who are famous jut for being famous, they just have to look pretty, but they do not get anything done.
2. You many realize you are a leader in your area of ministry, but you are also a leader in other areas of your life, whether you realize it or not. Leadership is one word: INFLUENCE. Anytime you influence someone you are a leader. So the question is not whether you are a leader or not. The question is, are you a good and godly leader or are you a poor leader? Every time you interact with anybody, you influence them. As you follow Jesus, He wants you to be a leader of others, for good and for His glory.
3. There are no perfect leaders in the world; the only perfect leader is Jesus Christ. So we must take His principles that made Him great and apply them to our lives.

FIRST PRINCIPLE OF LEADERSHIP IS

(IDENTIFICATION)

1. The foundation of great leadership is, identification; I must know who I am. This is called self-awareness. All good leaders know their strengths and their weaknesses. They accept their strengths and they admit their weaknesses. So a leader has some great strengths, but we also have great weaknesses. Leadership is not ignoring one in favor of the other. It's being honest about both. Good

leaders don't try to be something they are not. They are self-aware. They know who they are.

2. Jesus had no doubt about His identity. He knew exactly who He was. Jesus said in various verses, "I Am the light of the world, I Am the Son of God; I am the way, I Am the truth, I Am the life. If you have seen me you have seen the Father, just to list a few.
3. In fact in the gospels eighteen times Jesus defines Himself He says I am... and the He tells us who He is. He did not let other people define Him. He defined Himself. He said I am not of this world, I am this and I Am that. He knew exactly who He was.
4. If you are going to be a leader you have to start with this foundational issue of knowing who you are. "*Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is*" (1John 3:2). Leaders do not look to other people to always be validated.
5. **Jesus knew his mission and His identity.** Jesus said: "I am one that bear witness of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me" (John 8:18). What Jesus meant by this is , I testify on My own behalf. He's saying this: I don't depend on other people's opinions to tell me who I am. I know who I am. I know exactly who I am. I know my own story and I tell it.
6. **If you don't know what God has made you to be then you are going to fall into a very common trap.**
 - a. You will allow other people to manipulate you with their expectations. In other words, you will allow other people to mold you into the image they want you to be instead of what God meant for you to be. If you decide yourself other people will decide it for you.

TWO THINGS THAT WILL LIMIT YOUR LEADERSHIP

1. **Comparing:** God says over and over in the scripture there is nobody else like you in the world. God didn't make you to be anybody else. When you get to heaven God isn't going to say, "Why weren't you more like so and so?" No,

“Why weren’t you more like you? I made you to be you and you weren’t meant to be like anybody else. So why are you comparing? You’re not one in a million, you’re one in six million. There’s never been anybody before, after, or right now just like you.” Even twins are different. Don’t ever compare yourself. Don’t compare your salary, your appearance, your clothes, or kids. Don’t compare your husbands or your wives. Don’t compare your degrees. God wants you to be you.

Psa 139:13 For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb.

Psa 139:14 I will praise thee; for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made: marvellous *are* thy works; and *that* my soul knoweth right well.

Psa 139:15 My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, *and* curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

Psa 139:16 Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all *my members* were written, *which* in continuance were fashioned, when *as yet there was* none of them.

Psa 139:17 How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them!

Psa 139:18 *If* I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee.

2. **Copying:** God does not want clones. If you don’t be you the world get hurt because nobody else can be you. We all start off originals but a lot of us end up as carbon copies of other people. If you are not an eloquent person, God doesn’t expect your prayers to be eloquent. It may be “Hi, God, it’s me.” That’s good enough for God. God does not care about fancy words. God cares about our heart.
 - a. If you’re going to be a leader that influences others, and God wants you to be that, you must first become comfortable with who you are. Don’t try to be anybody else. Don’t copy or compare, Accept your unique strength. And admit your weaknesses, which are also unique to you.