

Bob Kauflin

THE LEADER'S RELATIONSHIPS

I. Introduction

- A. Relationships are one of the primary ways we worship God.

And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "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. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets." (Mt. 22:35-40)

1. We tend to limit worship to what we do in front of people during a meeting or something musical.
2. The church doesn't need leaders who love to lead people in worship but don't love the people they're serving.

- B. God intends our relationships to bring him glory even more than our songs.

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Rom. 15:5-6)

- C. Pray consistently for all those in your primary relational networks, that God would receive glory through them.

1. As a reminder of what I can't do
2. So that I might better know God's purposes for those relationships
3. That I might grow in my love and care for others

II. Your Family

- A. Faithfulness in our family is a prerequisite for leadership in the church. The way we act in both arenas are closely related. (1 Tim. 3:4-5)

He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? (1 Tim. 3:4-5)

1. Husbands are to love, cherish, nourish, and provide for their wives. (Eph. 5:25-33)
2. Wives are to respect, submit to, care for, and love their husbands. (Eph. 5:22-24; Prov. 31:10-31)

- B. Applies to our roles as parents and children as well.
 - 1. Parents are to raise their children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord, with kindness and patience. (Eph. 6:4; Col. 3:21)
 - 2. Children are to obey, respect, and honor their parents. (Eph. 6:1-3; Col. 3:20)
- C. While joyful sacrifice is characteristic of faithful servants, family should never be sacrificed on the altar of ministry.
- D. Be faithful with family times, vacations, date nights, etc. so that when crises arise your family will gladly let you serve.

III. Your Church

- A. The church member
 - 1. Leading people you don't love won't be very effective or honoring to God.
 - 2. We're called to love as we have been loved. (Jn. 13:14-15; 1 John 3:16)
 - 3. Pray for the members of your church, especially those who seem unresponsive.
 - 4. Look for opportunities to encourage and thank church members.
 - 5. Hang out with the people in your church.

- B. The critic

Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid. (Prov. 12:1)

Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning. (Prov. 9:9)

- 1. Pray for correction.
- 2. Expect correction.
- 3. Be proactive in pursuing correction.
- 4. Ask follow-up questions.
- 5. Thank those who correct you.
- 6. Thank God for correction.
- 7. View correction in light of the cross.

In light of God's judgment and justification of the sinner in the cross of Christ, we can begin to discover how to deal with any and all criticism. By agreeing with God's criticism of me in Christ's cross, I can face any criticism man may lay against me. In other words, no one can criticize me more than the cross has. (Alfred Poirier, "The Cross and Criticism," *The Journal of Biblical Counseling*, Vol. 17, Number 3, Spring 1999, 19.)

C. The encourager

The crucible is for silver, and the furnace is for gold, and a man is tested by his praise. (Prov. 27:21)

1. Thank the person for taking the time to encourage you.
2. If the compliment is vague, ask for clarification.
3. Express gratefulness for the opportunity to serve. (2 Cor. 4:5; Mk. 10:45)
4. Draw attention to the contributions of others. (1 Cor. 12:17-20)
5. Internally and intentionally "transfer the glory to God."

D. The song suggester.

1. Thank the person for caring about what you sing in the church.
2. If you're familiar with the song and have thought about it, let the person know, i.e., you'll be doing it soon, haven't been able to fit it in, there are some things that make you lean towards not doing it, etc.
3. If you don't know the song, get the name and listen to it. Don't assume the merits of a song on its connection with a group or your past experience.
4. Get back to the individual by email or even better, in person.

E. Lead theologically, with the gospel in view

1. Don't create problems for yourself by:
 - a. Making significant changes without telling anyone in advance.
 - b. Giving superficial reasons for changes.
 - c. Trying to make everybody happy.
 - d. Disparaging the past as you press toward the future.
 - e. Pursuing experience at the expense of doctrine.
 - f. Adopting external changes without emphasizing the internal work of the Holy Spirit.
 - g. Assuming everyone in your church understands what worship is about.
2. Take time to teach the church why you sing the songs you do.
3. Teach the church that there is a difference between being musically moved and morally changed.
4. Trust that people in your church will be more impressed and helped by the glories of Jesus Christ than you.

IV. Your Musicians

A. Know your role and capabilities

1. Full time, part time, or volunteer
2. Pastor or music leader
3. Long term or just started
4. Have reasonable expectations. Your band doesn't have to be a small group, like a family, or best friends.

B. Build a culture

1. Establish standards. The earlier the better. (times you'll play, different giftings, expectations for serving, etc.)
2. Encourage (Rom. 12:10) – in the moment, by email, meetings
3. Equip – theologically and musically
 - a. Knowing God by Packer, Knowledge of the Holy by Tozer, True Worship by Vaughan Roberts.
 - b. YouTube videos, college courses, online classes, musicians in the church.
4. Evaluate – because your aim is to serve, aim to serve more effectively.
 - a. Right after the meeting
 - b. During the week, via email
 - c. At mid-week rehearsals
5. Enjoy – laugh together, make fun of each other, appreciate each other

C. Handling transitions

1. Due to lack of skill
 - a. Various factors including people you “inherit,” relation to the pastor, age differences, etc.
 - b. Audition people in advance whenever possible.
 - c. The minimal standard is not using people who would be a distraction to the church. (1 Chron. 15:22)
 - d. Teach on the principle of feet and hands (1 Cor. 12:12-31)
 - e. Speak honestly and kindly. The truth might hurt but it doesn't need to be communicated in a hurtful way.
 - f. If appropriate, encourage growth, taking lessons, study, and have them come back later.
 - g. Point out other ways God has gifted them and other opportunities to serve.
 - h. Don't burn your bridges too quickly.
 - i. Involve your pastor or others on the team for perspective, counsel, and if necessary, leadership.
2. Due to lack of character
 - a. Realize the need for stricter standards for those who serve publicly in the church. Heart is more important than art. (1 Timothy 3:2–12; Titus 1:5–9; James 3:1).
 - b. Regularly ask how people are doing.

- c. Don't assume you know all the details of a situation. (Prov. 18:17)
- d. Establish the significance and effect of the sin.
- e. If appropriate, seek to help rather than simply let go.
- f. Involve a pastor sooner than later in more serious situations.
- g. Involve others in restoration.

V. Your Pastor

- A. Be grateful for your pastor. He's a gift. (Eph. 4:11-12)
- B. Listen to and study your pastor. (Prov. 18:2)
 - 1. Recognize that all pastors aren't the same.
 - 2. What is his vision for the church? For the meeting?
 - 3. What moves him?
 - 4. How does he like to communicate?
 - 5. When does he like to communicate?
 - 6. Do you speak the same language?
 - 7. How much does he want to be involved?
- C. Serve your pastor. (Heb. 13:17)
 - 1. Pray for your pastor.
 - 2. Seek to adapt to his preferences.
 - 3. Recognize that you're on the same team, but the pastor is the coach. You don't have to protect your portion of the meeting.
- D. Initiate with your pastor. (Prov. 3:27)
 - 1. Seek out new songs.
 - 2. Find articles or books on music and worship you can recommend.
 - 3. Be the first to ask for evaluation. *What can I do better?*
 - 4. Offer to be replaced if someone better comes along.
- E. When disagreements come...
 - 1. Before taking a position in a church research their doctrine, relationships, history, and vision.
 - 2. Make sure you've identified the right issues. Theology, methodology, generational preferences.
 - 3. Take care of your own heart issues first. (Mt. 7:1-5)
 - 4. Use a neutral third part book or individual for perspective.
 - 5. Resolve issues rather than let them linger.
 - 6. Do everything you can to support your pastor. But if you can't do that in faith, it may be time to move on graciously.

VI. Q&A