

LIVING



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WEEK TEN Leadership Potential

THE MISSIONARY TASK

Component Four: *Healthy Church Formation*

INTRODUCTION

Leadership is influence. Whether in the home, the office, the school or church, there is no sphere of life where leadership is not needed. Without such, history has proven that everyone will do what is “right in his own eyes.” (Judges 21:25)

Christians therefore play a significant role in the culture and the church as they influence others toward life and godliness in Christ (2 Pt. 1:3).

But Christians know the church has a greater ROI. In God’s economy, the church is the gospel vehicle to change the culture. And therefore, Christians do well to leverage their leadership influence among God’s people to make the greatest kingdom impact.

How then are Christians to use their influence and so prove themselves to be leaders? What intangible possessions must they hold to earn the right to lead?

The pages of the New Testament provide a counter-cultural answer to those pressing questions. And as we should expect, those answers start with Jesus.

BIBLICAL MATERIAL

The church is led by Christ. He is the Chief Shepherd (1 Pt. 5:2). Therefore, any theology of leadership for the local church must be taken from his example of life and ministry. If we want to lead like Jesus, we take our cues from him. We must *serve*.

He said to his disciples, “Let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves” (Luke 22:26).

Jesus took up the towel and basin (John 13:1-20). He took on flesh in the form of a servant (Phil. 2:7). He even said explicitly, “The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Through his love and service, Jesus has earned the right to lead us and teach us. No one has more influence on the Christian than the Lord Jesus. He is our example *par excellence* of leadership potential. Servant leadership is Christ-like leadership.

We are never more like Jesus than when we are serving.

And therefore, to be sure, one is never ready to lead until they are happy to serve. We’ll find leadership potential when we look among our lead servants.

MISSIONARY TASK RELEVANCY

From Evangelism to Exit, the Missionary Task is about seeing healthy churches planted and established among unreached people. As we make our way around the Task, we note a natural progression from those who are serving to those stepping into lanes of leadership. For the church to be established, so must be the leadership. (We'll talk more about pastors and deacons (1 Tim. 3:1-13) in the next component of the Missionary Task, "Leadership Development").

We will never accomplish the Task at home or abroad until we develop the competency of identifying potential leadership, raising them up and installing (sending) them in a place of ministry. But for now, as we think about potential, we are simply looking for those people, men and women, who possess leadership traits to take the reigns of ministry whatever it may be. To be sure, there can be no healthy ministries, and furthermore, no healthy churches without healthy leadership.



LIFE APPLICATION

Whether you are a new Christian or have been following Jesus for six decades, you have influence in someone's life. Just think about that. The question is, "What kind of influence do you have?" As Charles Spurgeon would say, "Do not seek to be great. Seek to be useful." That's the kind of influence Jesus seemed to promote. Perhaps that is a good place to start when thinking about leadership potential. Seeking to be a useful servant. And if so, you may just find yourself leading.

1. In what areas of life do you currently have spiritual influence? How have you seen others follow your lead in these areas?
2. Provide some past experiences where you noticed a need for leadership in your home, church, and circles of friends. What reasons would you give for the lack of leadership?
3. Next, provide some examples of times where you were under healthy leadership in either your home, your church, or among your own friends. How would you describe the leader, and what was the result of his or her influence on your life? (cf. Ps. 23:1-3)
4. Why are leaders necessary for the church to flourish? How have you seen this proven in your life and ministry?
5. What is keeping you from the exemplary Christian life as modeled by pastors and deacons? Are you willing to pursue such a life, and even make yourself available to such a ministry if called upon by your church?