

LEADERSHIP

“Pastor, how do I know that I am a leader?” In one sense, we all have a sphere of influence therefore we are all leaders. However, if you are seeking to lead people correctly and impact on their lives, there are certain criteria you must adhere to. First, as a Christian you must follow Christ and adopt His leadership style. Jesus was the best leader to have ever walked this earth. Even so, He too was a “follower.” In John 5:19 Jesus said, ***“Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.”*** Jesus was a great leader because He was a great follower! Maybe this is what’s lacking with many of us. We are not prepared to follow before we are able to lead. Jesus learnt to lead by mimicking His Father - He followed His every move!

As the ‘perfect leader’ Jesus displayed nine characteristics, and these behaviours were a strong indication of what He thought was important. The example of Christ should be a powerful lesson for all of us.

1. Jesus was not self-promoting (Mark 1:11).
2. Jesus was obedient to the Holy Spirit (Mark 1:12-13).
3. Jesus imparted vision, with clarity, simplicity, and directness (Mark 1:15).
4. Jesus was a strategic team builder (Mark 1:17).
5. Jesus was a relationship builder (Mark 1:19).
6. Jesus expressed control and authority as a leader (Mark 1:23-25).
7. Jesus engaged crisis head-on (Mark 1:30-31).
8. Jesus practiced daily prayer (Mark 1:35).
9. Jesus was all about empowering others (Mark 1:41-45).

Assuming you have gathered followers, to be a good leader you need to ask yourself, “Why are they following me?” In this regard, there are three levels of leadership:

1. People follow you because of your gift, position or title. This is the most basic form of leadership and those who follow rarely engage or have a meaningful relationship with the leader. They just do what they are told.
2. People follow you because they like you. This is the next level of leadership and it is built on being in relationship with the leader. Those who follow feel at ease and often perform better because of it. Remember, if people don’t like you it is because your leadership skills are poor.
3. People follow you because they want to be like you. This is the highest form of leadership and it is very Christ-like. The Lord’s followers genuinely wanted to become exactly like Him. The apostle Paul caught hold of this and that is why he was able you say, “Whatever you see me do you do also!” The more you imitate Christ, the Christ in you will cause others to want to be like you!

2 Corinthians 3:18 describes the process of transformation that is necessary for good Christian leadership... ***“And all of us, as with unveiled face, because we continued to behold in the Word of God as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are constantly being transfigured into His very own image in ever increasing splendour and from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord Who is Spirit”*** (AMP).