

LETTERS TO LEADERS

BY

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LEADERSHIP IS RELATIONSHIP

CORNERSTONE:

The cornerstone truth of leadership is simply this: Leadership is relationship.

POSITION AND RELATIONSHIP:

We often define leadership as a position. It is certainly true. Leadership is a position. Yet a position that has no relationship with others is not a position, but simply an isolation. Therefore, I have concluded from practical experience that position without relationship is a "solo act" and can only be self serving.

On the other hand, there is no such thing as relationship without position. Only as we recognize and enter into relationship can we define our position in the Church, whether it be leader or follower.

THREE RELATIONSHIPS

As Christians, we all have three basic relationships:

1. Relationship with God through Christ, by the Holy Spirit.
2. Relationship with all people, Saint and Sinner.
3. Relationship with Satan, Demons, and Darkness (obviously this is a negative relationship),

WITH THE GODHEAD

In our relationship with the Godhead, the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we are SONS and DAUGHTERS. We are not sons and daughters in the same sense that Jesus is the son of God. Jesus is unique in that He is "the only begotten" son of God. Yet when we are born again, we are born into the kingdom of the Son of His Love.

Being born again, sons and daughters of God, we are new creations in Christ. We are the righteousness of God in Christ. We are more than conquerors.

As sons and daughters, we approach God as sons and daughters, not as servants. Yet, His is Lord over us, not with harshness and wrath, but with love and mercy.

As sons and daughters we are heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ. An heir is one who receives unearned possessions from the estate of another. God delights to bless, protect and provide for His sons and daughters.

WITH OTHERS:

As Christians our relationship to others is one of servitude; servants to Christians and sinners alike. This does not give others lordship over us, for Jesus is the only Lord of our lives. To serve, in the Biblical sense, is to help others who

need help, before we help ourselves. It is selfless Agape love in action.

WITH SATAN:

As Christians, we are Lords over Satan. Jesus gave us "...power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing shall by any means hurt you". In the name (authority) of Jesus we can cast out demons (MT 16).

SUMMARY

We are Sons of God. We are servants of men. We are lords over Satan.

If we get the three ideas of sons, servants, and lords mixed up in the three relationships, God, men and Satan we get into trouble.

SERVANTS:

As Christians we are servants of men.

Before we were born again we were servants of Satan. We did not all know it, but we were under his dominion, the kingdom of darkness. That is not to say we were all possessed. Satan had no need to possess all of us. We were not for Christ, so we were against Christ. We were under Satan's dominion by default.

However, we have been born again, and are servants of men.

We Christians get trapped in thinking we can serve God. In a sense of the word we can. However, we can only serve God by serving people; God's people and heathen as well.

As leaders in God's church we especially are called to serve all. We serve them by teaching them, encouraging them, praying for them, helping them to enter into God's will for their lives. The job of those in leadership of God is to help others make it in life, in ministry, in God, before ourselves. This is Agape love in action.

LORDS:

The ideal of lordship or authority is the idea that all leaders struggle with.

As Christians, Jesus gave us authority or lordship over Satan.

From our knowledge of the character of God and the resulting reverence for God, we know that God is Lord of our lives. It is so absurd to think we have any lordship or authority toward God.

Problems arise as leaders consider the use of authority in the exercise of their responsibilities.

In the world men believe all their problems will be solved as they have authority over others. This has proven to be a deception, as seen in the lives of absolute dictators. They may have more things than anyone under their authority, but they are generally unhappy in their struggle to defend their authority.

Of course, the great struggle in the world today is in regard to freedom and bondage; dictatorship and democracy;

authority and liberty.

Jesus came to deliver us from Satan's authority and place us under God's authority. As leaders we must understand God's authority and how He uses it. We must understand when and how we are to be God's instrument of authority.

LESSONS FROM FOLLOWING:

Before God placed us in leadership, we all had experience as followers. Whether in the world or in the church, we learned about leadership by being followers.

Leaders who love us, we love and will follow willingly.

Leaders who have no apparent interest in us give us reason to question their love for us. Therefore, we may follow with reluctance.

Leaders who do not help or even limit us without understanding or reason, we will not follow.

RELATIONSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP

Because love is an essential element in effective leadership, either in the world or in the church, the relationship of leadership must be activated and strengthened with fellowship.

To be an effective leader for God, we must get to know those who we lead. We must allow them to get to know us.

FELLOWSHIP IS ESSENTIAL:

Jesus demonstrated this in his intimate relationship with his disciples. There were times when he withdrew from them to fellowship with his heavenly Father. However, he would return to them to travel, eat, and talk with them.

CONCLUSION

To be an effective leader for God, you must get to know them intimately so that they know you are determined to love and help them. Then if it is necessary to exercise authority or correction, they will receive it and continue in that love relationship with you and even more with God.

Sincerely
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