

LETTERS TO LEADERS

BY

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It occurs to me that there are three general types of leadership. All can be effective if used properly in the right situation. However, not all are Biblical leadership. These three types of leadership can be described as :

1. Leadership by command,
2. Leadership by persuasion, and
3. Leadership by example.

Command leadership is only effective where there are well defined organizational structures where lines of authority are established. In its purest form there are only two responses to this leadership type; obey or leave the organization. If one cannot leave the organization, then they may have to deal with their attitude about authority directing or controlling their lives. Often this issue is found in the parent-child relationship. If the child does not know their parents love them, resentment and rebellion set in. this can also happen in a non-family relationship.

Persuasion leadership we call "salesmanship." In this type of leadership, leaders make it clear to the followers that it is to their advantage to perform in agreement with the leaders. Sometime this "persuasion" comes from bitter experience that is born out of disobedience. We learn "The next time we will do it the leaders way." This is often the pathway of learning to obey God. Often we are not "sold" on an idea that is Biblical or Godly, so we learn the value of doing things God's way by the bitter experience of failing through disobedience.

Example leadership is ultimately the most effective because the follower is motivated to be like the leader. This happens because the leaders love for them is apparent.

Command leadership can effective with paid staff.

Persuasion leadership needs to be relied upon with volunteers, such as volunteer church members.

Example leadership is the only fruitful leadership toward disciples.

These styles are all blended together in practical application. But we leaders need to remember this and emphasize the one style that will be effective in a given situation.

in His love

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