

# LETTER TO LEADERS

BY

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Dear Friends:

In recent months I have been writing to you, a pastor or leader, to share things I have learned through experience. I trust the things I share will somehow help and encourage.

## LEADERSHIP IS A POSITION

As leaders we occupy a position of responsibility in the body of Christ. That position however, is defined by our relationship with others, as all positions are defined.

## LEADERSHIP IS RELATIONSHIP

Because our position is defined by our relationship to people, we must recognize and accept these relationships. Relationships are seldom, if ever, free of problems. Nevertheless, we are not permitted by God to break the relationship to escape the problem. God has called us to establish and sustain relationships to reflect His faithfulness to us, His children.

## RELATIONSHIP REQUIRES FELLOWSHIP

Any relationship that is void of fellowship is formal, cold, distant and unfruitful. Relationship without fellowship is a void that will be filled with problems or with love. Relationship without fellowship is an open door for problems. Love closes the door to problems and opens the door to fellowship and unity.

## LEADERS MUST BE OPEN

As leaders we are in relationship to God's people. Without fellowship and love there will be problems in our relationships. In that relationship to people, we show forth God's love as servants of all.

This may sound theoretical, but it is basic and it is true. In practical application we

may lose sight of the simplicity for a while. We must not lose it permanently for love is the only answer to relationship problems.

## GOD RELATED TO ADAM

In order to understand relationship and accompanying problems, we need to go back to God's first relationship to find the pattern; God's relationship to Adam.

God's relationship with Adam was the product of God forming, creating and making Adam in His own likeness and image. This means that Adam's physical appearance and personality were like God's.

God created man because he was bored with the angels. He wanted someone to fellowship with, someone who would be free and creative, unlike the angels. So Adam had creativity from God and freedom of choice.

Adam was free to be creative, and free to fall. In Adam, God had made Himself vulnerable but it was necessary if He was going to enjoy the fellowship He desired.

## FREE TO FALL

You know the story. Adam used his freedom of choice to fall. But after the fall Cain was born. God was delighted. He had never seen a baby before. Adam and Eve exercised their creative abilities. But God also wept because He could not fellowship with Cain, for through Adam's fall, fellowship was broken.

## GOD KEPT LOOKING

Even after the fall, when Adam and Eve were hiding from God in their birthday suits and in their shame, God came looking for them.

God knew they had fallen, but He came to the garden because He loved them. God knew they were ashamed yet He covered them because He loved them.

## GOD'S LEADERSHIP

God's original means of leading Adam was by spirit to Spirit communion, by spiritual intuitive knowledge of God.

In the original leadership plan of God's, He required nothing of Adam but to abstain from the tree whose fruits would give knowledge of Good and Evil. All other leadership influence of God toward Adam was to be the influence of love between God and Adam. IT DID NOT WORK!

One could quickly say, "it did not work! God gave Adam too much freedom and Adam failed God!" Yes, the natural mind would say that. But God has not given up. He is still looking for a man or woman who will willingly walk with Him despite temptation.

## LEADING LIKE GOD

God is not only looking for men and women to willingly walk with Him, He is looking for leaders who will lead like Him.

God needs leaders who will lead people into freedom of choice and persuade them to choose God in every situation.

God needs leaders who will lead people into creativity and rejoice when the people do something that the leaders have never done.

God needs leaders who weep when the joy of creativity has been stolen through broken fellowship.

God needs leaders who will love and teach disciples like Jesus did and walk in the garden of forgiveness when they fall.

God needs leaders like Jesus!

Will you be one???

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