

Letter to Leaders

By

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Dear Friends:

LEADERSHIP, POSITION & RELATIONSHIP - We have shared with you the simple truth that leadership is a position. Biblically, God has placed you in the position of leadership in the church. But position is only meaningful when there is relationship. Position cannot just be a theory. One can be in the midst of a great crowd and be very lonely. An officer can command his men to advance, yet see them retreat because he did not have a relationship with them, even though he had position.

RELATIONSHIP: LEGAL OR LOVING - Relationship can be a legalistic expression, a requirement, with consequences for breaking that relationship. Or relationship can be a vital and real experience because two people desire it. Sometimes that desire is born out of mutual necessity; sometimes it is born out of love.

LOVING LEADERS - As leaders in the Church, we are especially called to have a loving relationship with those whom we lead. When people know we love them, they will advance when we say advance. If people do not know we love them, they may retreat instead. Love is the oil that makes the Church function properly.

LOVE & CHANGE - When we love people, their hearts will be opened and God can change them. When we try to change people, their hearts will close up and they will not even realize God's love.

SELFISHNESS: FIGHT IT OR FEED IT - Selfishness!!! Fight it or feed it!! Dr. Kaiser, you must be crazy. Christians are not supposed to be selfish. We are called to show people their necessity to become *selfless* like Jesus.

You are right. We are supposed to be as *selfless* as Jesus was. However, we are all on that road together and as leaders, we are supposed to be setting the example for God's people.

FIGHT SELFISHNESS? - When we realize that we are still a bit selfish, we can either fight it or feed it. We fight selfishness by teaching against it, by expecting everyone to be *selfless*, and by being frustrated and disappointed when we find that they aren't.

FEED SELFISHNESS? - When I say feeding selfishness, I do not mean promoting or honoring it. To feed selfishness is to provide for the need that is expressing itself. Selfishness is merely a symptom of that need. If we can learn the wisdom of feeding selfishness, we may find some surprising results. Only when our needs are met will we be truly *selfless* and able to help others. God knew this and sent Jesus Christ to the cross to make provision for our selfish needs so we could become *selfless*.

LOVE SATISFIES SELFISHNESS - When we as leaders determine to love God's people, He will use us to satisfy their selfish needs. One simple way we can minister is to ask, "How can I help you fulfill your heart's desire?"

AFRAID TO ASK? - As a leader you may have failed to ask people how you could help them, fearing they would ask something you could not accomplish. Ask anyway. If you cannot help in a practical way, then pledge to pray and help in other ways until you are equipped to give them what they need. They will sense your commitment to them and as a result, they will be more committed to you, to the church and to God.

WHAT ABOUT ME - When I share this idea, I often hear, "What about the church's vision?" Even though these are the words used I can hear leaders really saying, "What about my vision?" Are leaders so sure we hear from God purely all the time? Are we so sure that our personal vision is not mixed with what we call God's vision for the church?

LEADERS OF FAITH - Are we leaders of faith? Do we trust God to establish His vision as we help the various members of the church fulfill their vision?

HAPPY PEOPLE PRODUCE - This I know. **HAPPY PEOPLE PRODUCE.** People are happy when they are able to

follow their personal visions, they love those who help them. We may persuade people to help us with our vision for a season, but they will become weary in their commitment. We never become weary however, when we pursue our own vision.

With God's Love

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