

Introductory Questions - 1

- Who is a leader?
- What is the definition of a true man?
- What is the fundamental question of each man?
- What are the fundamental questions of each woman?
- How does our spiritual, family, and cultural heritage affect us?
- What is your main motivation in life?

Introductory Questions - 2

- Why do Christian leaders fall?
- How can we know if we are really developing our ministry successfully?
- How do we avoid boredom, lack of growth, apathy, or the complete failure of our marriage, ministry and life?
- What is the secret that will lead us to a strong, abundant, powerful life that inspires and encourages our families and congregations?

Answer

- There is no secret
- There is no "silver bullet"
- There is no guaranteed plan
- There's no escape
- There is no complete relief
- That's what heaven is for

More Answers

- If there is a path to transformation
- If you can understand people
- If there is a guarantee of success (if you define it correctly)
- There is something better than relief
- If possible have balance, authentic and intimate relationships, positive influence, and joy

Diagnostic Questions

- At the end of my day I measure my success in terms of the tasks accomplished.
- If there is an important task I prefer to do it myself instead of delegating it so that it is well done the first time.
- If I have doubts or spiritual struggles or falls into sin, it is better that this be between me and God.
- The sin of other people bothers me a lot, especially if it is repeated.
- When I have to speak the truth, I care little about how I make others feel.
- If I have to advise another, I try to discern what he is doing wrong and offer him the spiritual solution for it.

Leadership Definition

"Leadership is the discipline of deliberately exerting a special influence within a group, to guide it towards beneficial permanence with goals and objectives that meet the true needs of the group."

(John Edmud Haggai, Be an influential leader, p. 22.)

Definition of leadership - discipline

- "Leadership is discipline ...
- What does it mean to have "discipline"?
- Continuous effort
- Consistent effort
- However, I wish not to do it or do the opposite

Definition of leadership - deliberate special influence

- "Leadership is the discipline of deliberately exercising a special influence within a group ..."
- Reflects intentionality
- It requires being part of a group but it's not just being one of the group
- A position that impacts differently than the other members
- It may or may not be the result of formal authority

Definition of leadership - guide towards beneficial permanence

- "Leadership is the discipline of deliberately exerting a special influence within a group, to guide it towards objectives of beneficial permanence ...
- What does "guide" mean?
- What is the purpose of the objectives?
- What or who is the benefactor of these efforts
- How does the definition affect if we remove the word 'beneficial'?

Leadership Definition

- "Leadership is the discipline of deliberately exerting a special influence within a group, to guide it towards beneficial permanence objectives that meet the true needs of the group."
- What should the leader discern and help others discern?
- What is the leader's main focus?
- In light of this, what would be common challenges for anyone in leadership?

What is 'Relational Leadership'

- It is leadership characterized by:
- Continuous commitment to humility
- Focus on relationships rather than tasks
- Focus on trust rather than control
- Focus on authenticity rather than appearances
- Share and multiply your influence through mentoring instead of protecting and preserving it for yourself.

The path of transformation

- Transform yourselves through the renewal of your understanding (Rom. 12: 2)
- For any real change
- You have to understand people
- To understand people
- You have to understand yourself
- To understand oneself
- We must hear from God

The path of transformation

- To hear from God you have to listen to:
- God's Word
- The Spirit of God
- God's people

Understanding people

- Fundamental truths - each person
- Creatures made in the image of God
- Image of God - male
- Image of God - female
- But also: Fallen, damaged, with failures
- Physically
- Emotionally
- Mentally
- Spiritually
- In search of security and significance

Who we are in the light of Genesis 3

- Gen 3 presents the beginning of replacing the relationship with God with religion
- Gen 3 introduces the broken state of relationships
- Gen 3 presents the downward trend of every man and woman
- Avoid liability with fault deflection - be passive
- Manipulate relationships through pressure
- Fundamental needs and wants
- To be loved
- Security - knowing that we are loved and appreciated
- Significance - knowing that we are worth something, that our life has a purpose
- This is true of each person regardless of their religious, believing or unbelieving orientation.

Our motivation

- Please God
- Trust God
- Only one can be principal

Key Texts

- James 4: 6
- God resists the superb and ...
- give grace to the humble
- Hebrews 11: 6
- Without faith it is impossible ... to please God

Result - Change of focus

- Life does not focus on handling sin
- Life does not focus on hiding weaknesses
- Life does not focus on presenting image
- These things reflect ego-centric approach
- New focus
- Trust who God says I am
- Resolve sin issues in my life
- Mature: Grow to be who God says I am

- Seek to give and receive love
- Influence based on who we are more than what we do

Trust that God says about me

- According to Ephesians 1 we are:
- Blessed (v. 3)
- Chosen and holy (v. 4)
- Adopted (v. 5)
- Redeemed and forgiven (v. 7)
- Sealed (v. 13)
- According to Romans 8
- There is no condemnation (no punishment or anger) (v. 1)
- The Spirit of God dwelling in us (v. 9)
- Privilege and right to call God "Abba" - Dad (v. 15)
- Heirs, co-heirs with Christ - suffer and glory (v. 17)
- Anything can work for good (v. 28)
- Known to God, predestined, called, justified, glorified (v. 29-30)
- God in our favor - no one against (v. 31)
- Inseparable from the love of Christ (v. 35)

What does God say about you?

- The same thing he said about Jesus:
- "This is my beloved son in whom I am pleased."
- Able to resolve the affairs of sin
- What prevents us from maturity is unresolved sin
- The matter of my sin must be resolved
- The matter of sin committed against me must be resolved
- Grace is the key to resolution

Key to Balanced Relational Leadership is to Mature - To grow into who I am

- Develop who I am already in Christ
- A saint who still sins
- But sin no longer defines me
- Someone for whom there is no condemnation (Rom 8)
- Someone who is always loved, accepted, appreciated, in whom God delights

True Security and Significance

- Everything we do we do according to our image of who we are:
- Son
- Servant
- Soldier
- In Christ our needs are fulfilled - completely
- Man does not have to be passive
- The woman does not have to manipulate or use pressure

Are you a vulnerable leader?

Do you know your enemies?

- World
- The Flesh
- The Devil

Enemy # 1 World

- Fame
- Power
- Money
- Sex

Enemy # 2 The Flesh

- Pride
- Selfishness
- Weakness
- Immorality

Enemy # 3 The Devil

- Temptations
- Burning arrows
- Accusations
- Devourings

Contributing causes: examining our heritage

- Spiritual inheritance - what it is to be a son of Adam
- Family inheritance - what it is to be the son of our parents
- Cultural heritage - what it is to be the son of our country

Recovering our lost strength

- The big NO - to the three enemies
- The problem of life is that it is so daily
- Being a hypocrite is indispensable

- The big NO - to relief
- The temptation to escape
- The temptation to avoid responsibility
- The temptation to be passive

Recovering our lost strength

- The great YES- to our identity, and our calling
- Recognizing our true identity
- Son of God
- Servant of God
- God's soldier
- The importance of maintaining the correct order

Open leader - positive aspects

- Open before God
- Opening the word - allow Jesus to instruct us
- Opening our mind - allow the Spirit to enlighten us
- Opening our heart - allow the Father to love us
- Opening our spirit - allow the Trinity to invade us
- My most authentic prayers
- God show me my sin
- Father hold me, Jesus love me, Spirit pray for me

Transparent with our family

- The questions of each woman
- I am beautiful?
- I'm worth it?
- The precarious balance of strength and tenderness as a husband
- Recognizing the mutual need for love and respect
- Inviting our wives to share in our lives and ministry
- Being his wife's biggest fan
- The rules are not the same for her and for you

Being a transparent father - authentic

- The precarious balance of strength and tenderness as a father
- Do not damage the fruit!
- Intentional Conversations
- Asking forgiveness
- Each son's question - Do I have what it takes?
- Each daughter's question - Am I beautiful, do I have courage?
- Example, example, example

Authentic before our congregations

- Willing to share failures and successes
- Willing to share weakness and strength
- Willing to talk about the daily struggle
- Willing to share power
- Willing to be accountable
- Willing to lead as servants

Balanced, mature leadership will always be more about our passion for Jesus and the submission of our wills to the will of the Father than any outside circumstance or influence.

We must constantly be asking ourselves:

- Is God enough?
- Does Jesus matter more?
- Say with Jesus: Nevertheless, not my will, but yours be done.