

## Things I've learned about Leadership Through Life

Prepared for Teaching Sessions:

General Introduction to Church Leadership

Being and Becoming an Effective Church Leader in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century



You've probably heard of the preacher that was asked, "How long did it take you to prepare for that message?" His simple response, "A lifetime."

1. Where there is no responsibility, there is no accountability. I will not be responsible for my leader's actions. (Scripture: James 3:1)
2. We are not designed to "compete with one another, but to complete one another." "We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise" (2 Corinthians 10:12, *NIV*).
3. "This too shall pass!"
4. Don't get tied down to the issue(s) of the day.

5. Your words have power. "Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof" (Proverbs 18:21). I don't want to be critical, condemning, complaining, or corrective. I want to be creative, caring, considerate and constructive.
6. Give away your best ideas.
7. Keep the passage clear and relationships right. "It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come!" (Luke 17:1). "And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me" (Matthew 11:6). "Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them" (Psalms 119:165).
8. When misunderstanding, confrontation, or correction is looming, face-to-face communication trumps written communication every time. "Who also hath made us able ministers of the New Testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life" (2 Corinthians 3:6).
9. Another word for confrontation is clarification. "Take heed to yourselves: if thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him" (Luke 17:3). "Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; leave thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift" (Matthew 5:23-24).
10. Have a vision: Write it. Track it. Celebrate it. Review it. Life has a beginning date and a finishing date. In between, fill-in-the-blank. ("And the Lord answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it: because it will surely come, it will not tarry" (Habakkuk 2:2-3). "Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he" (Proverbs 29:18).
11. If you can minister anywhere, you can minister everywhere. The basic needs of people are transcultural.
12. Capitalize on your strengths. You are a marketable commodity in the kingdom. Add value.
13. Specialization is the order of the day. Find your niche and fill it. Determine your gift mix and give yourself to it to advance the kingdom of God. Remember the proverb, "If you

chase two rabbits you end up catching neither.” Some pride themselves in being a “jack-of-all-trades.” But, don’t forget the end of that statement, “And master of none.”

14. Avoid burnout. Work smarter, not harder. Less is more. “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not” (Galatians 6:9). Keep your mind and efforts on the main thing: your area of specialization. Remember, the “five rule.” Endeavor to accomplish five things toward your vision per day. Track and record accomplishments toward reaching your vision. It is mission critical and top priority. A not-to-do list is as important as a to-do list. Engage a project management system. Rest. Renew. Restore. Results. Response. Refocus. Three gauges: spiritual, physical, and emotional. (See pages 133-138, Ministerial Development, Jim Poitras). Do your mission critical stuff, your specialization, what you are good at during your optimal time of the day.
15. Remember the acronyms: EIRO (Effort In. Results out). WIN (What’s important now). DEAR (Drop Everything and Rally). Roving leadership.
16. Faultfinding is not a spiritual gift. Finding solutions is.
17. Go above the expectations of others. “So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do” (Luke 17:10).
18. Remember one of the golden rules of Sunday school, “Share.” Impacting the world involves building a model ministry, preaching to preachers, and writing. Multiply your influence and ministry: give what you’ve learned away. “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also” (2 Timothy 2:2). “**freely** ye have received, **freely give**” (Matthew 10:8).
19. Stand behind what and who you believe in. Be an encourager. “For he was a good man (good in himself and also at once for the good and advantage of other people” (Acts 11:24, AMP).
20. Don’t curse the darkness unless you are willing to provide the light.
21. In all your learning, and advancement, don’t forget the basics of Christianity and ministry.

22. Pride and lack of submission is a predictor of a fall. “Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom” (Proverbs 13:10). “Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many are defiled” (Hebrews 12:15).
23. Build a strong kitchen cabinet. ‘Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety” (Proverbs 11:14).
24. God isn’t nearly as interested in our location, or vocation, as He is in what we are becoming. “That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour” (1 Thessalonians 4:4).
25. God speaks best through you what He is speaking in you.
26. You are your prayer life; your devotional life: nothing more, nothing less.
27. Remember there are seasons of a leader’s life: learning, leading, and leaving (a legacy).
28. Grow old without growing cynical.
29. Don’t believe the old sayings: Practice makes perfect. You can’t teach an old dog new tricks. Everything that can be created has been created. After all, there is nothing new under the sun.