

PK WISE CHOICES

leadership

THE INSIDE RUNNING

The Bible calls all men to step up to leadership in many areas. This ranges from personal responsibility to leading others in your sphere of influence.

The truth is that many men are painfully aware of being stuck on their Adamic default setting of "passive". The passive condition is the enemy of initiative and leadership. John Eldredge says the question within most men is "Do I have what it takes?" It may take us out of our comfort zone but we must step up to leadership. That could mean being obedient to the Holy Spirit and speaking to a stranger. For fathers there is the call to protect and serve their family. In the workplace we have the opportunity to lead with character and integrity by showing moral strength.

Jesus stood the concept of leadership on its head with His example of servant leadership. Promise Keepers is a servant ministry to men and churches. As we serve we are providing leadership and hope for a better and more strategic future. Thank you for being part of Promise Keepers on this journey.

John

John Subritzky



Jesus' call to Christian living and Christian leadership is nothing short of radical, risk-taking, and revolutionary, if for no other reason than what it costs. Think of what it takes to be a leader in Christ's kingdom. It takes calling, commitment, and courage.

Calling. Jesus said "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" Acts 1:8. Revolutionary leaders must be

willing to let Jesus set the agenda for their lives. Too often we approach the task of leadership with the idea that we're first in command. But we're not. Jesus is the commander in chief. We simply carry out His orders and follow His battle plan. The question every leader needs to ask themselves is, "What is it that Jesus has said I will be?"

Commitment. Jesus told His disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me" Luke 9:23. Leaders, of all of Christ's followers, must be those who demonstrate ongoing commitment to the cause of Christ. The most important truth about the cross is that Jesus endured it. He went the distance. He denied giving in to the pain and suffering and hung in there, literally, to the end. Christian leaders must do the same.

Courage. Jesus said, "For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it." Luke 9:24 Jesus lost His very life in fulfilling His passion and purpose. But through His death came the resurrection, which completed His work of redemption for mankind. Leaders must have the courage to suffer personal loss, perhaps even death, as they fulfil their passion and purpose. It is often through the courageous sacrifices leaders make today that the mission is fulfilled in the future.

It is dishonouring to the Name of Christ and a misrepresentation of His person and His message to live and lead any other way. I realise that talking about calling, commitment, and courage in leadership is a little frightening for most Christians. But Jesus' mission is no ordinary mission. It's a mission to turn the world upside down.

Glenn Wagner lives near Charlotte, North Carolina, and is the founder and president of FutureLead. www.futurelead.org (Adapted)

What men "want" are a cause, a companion, and a conviction.

The essence of manhood is finding....

1. A **Cause** we can give our lives to that will make a difference—a mission, significance, meaning, purpose
2. A **Companion** to share it with—

relationships, love, family, acceptance

3. A **Conviction** that gives a reasonable explanation for why #1 and #2 are so difficult—a belief system, worldview, philosophy, religion.

Of course, when men find the wrong cause, the wrong woman, or the wrong god everything falls apart, though slowly—and rarely detected until the damage is done.

Patrick Morley in "Pastoring Men"

EMERGING LEADERS

For the past 30 years of ministry, I have found it vital to be building into the lives of emerging leaders at all times. During this time I've noticed several principles that have risen to the top as far as importance and would like to share them with you. The development of leaders is not going to "just happen," but will take work and energy. Again, the culture is more important than the program. It allows for people to grow and develop.



by Steve Sonderman

What makes up a leadership culture conducive to growth?

1 Freedom to Fail – Freedom to take risks, to do things they have not done before. Not to hold excellence (perfection) up as the standard. If you want to build an equipping ministry, you have to tear down the idol of excellence.

2 Principle of "Looking" – Every leader needs to be on the lookout for the next emerging leader. All leaders need to have their eyes open to identify and invite others into ministry. Another way to say it is to "engage and enlist" or the "big ask." Empower every leader to be looking for their replacement.

3 Principle of "With" – Every leader needs to take others with them when doing ministry. You cannot have an impact from a distance; rather young emerging leaders need proximity to real leaders.

4 Resources – Shape a culture where leaders have the resources needed

to grow, develop, and do the ministry. We are constantly providing resources to our leaders such as books, articles, CDs, and other material that will help them grow.

5 Care, Love, and Encouragement – Every leader needs to feel supported. They need to feel cared for, appreciated, and encouraged in what they are doing. Treat every leader with dignity, respect, and value.

6 The "Right Fit" Principle or the "Sweet Spot" Principle – The goal is to have every leader serving in their passion/gift area. Leaders will know their capacity, strengths, and weaknesses.

7 Release Control – People develop in different ways and we will need to open our hands and give them space and room to grow. Honour their uniqueness by not controlling or manipulating them. Too often in the church today we want to micro-manage men who are running multi-million dollar companies.

8 A Culture of Renewal – Provide opportunities for leaders to hit the

pause button and experience Sabbath and the renewal of their soul. This will mean providing soul care for your leaders.

9 Reward Equippers over Doers – In a culture of people development, those who get rewarded are not the ones who "do things" but those who "empower other people to do things." They see it as their role to equip other people.

10 Develop Leaders; Not Use Leaders – Help every leader become what God wants them to be and do. Training is not for the purpose of keeping the church going, but to lead ministries that will change the world. Move people from the campus to the community.

Our Men's Ministry continually strives to implement these core principles as we look to equip future leaders.

About the Author: Steve Sonderman is Associate Pastor of Men's Ministry and Leadership Development at Elmbrook Church in Brookfield, WI. He is the founder of Top Gun Ministries (topgunministries.org) and author of *How to Build a Life-Changing Men's Ministry*.

Means to an End



"Leadership," Peter Drucker reminded us, "often has little to do with so-called leadership qualities and even less to do with charisma. Leadership is only a means – to what end is the crucial question." I agree. And I would add that the end result of leadership has little to do with the title, status, position, or accomplishments of the leader and much to do with the accomplishments of the followers, the directions they're being led, and who they're becoming in the process.



This principle is reflected in the words of Jesus to his disciples after he'd washed their feet: "Do you understand what I was doing?... Since I, the Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet... Do as I have done to you" (John 13:12-15).

Leadership is about serving; about never asking someone to do what you aren't willing to do yourself; about being an example so that those who follow are enabled to do likewise; about assuming responsibility for results that will benefit those being led.

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**NEXT ISSUE:
FINISHING
WELL**

