



MESSAGE

Steamrolling

“Effective Leadership starts on the inside.” – Ken Blanchard

REFLECTION

Bill Hybels talks about the Church being the most leadership intensive environment. Why might this be true? In the Church:

- you can't threaten people to do something,
- you can't use unfair leverage (e.g. money or salary) to motivate them,
- you can't scare them into achieving, by exploiting their fears,
- you can't lord it over them and command they do or don't so something.

Effective leadership in the Church constantly relies on one's raw ability to lead. To call people to a cause, to envision them, equip them, empower them and set them on a pathway to success.

Here is the problem! Not all people in Christian leadership understand (or even agree) that those four (and probably many others) *don'ts* CANNOT and SHOULD NEVER be exercised in God's Kingdom. Many people have written about a long-growing lack of Christian Leadership in our Church, that only now are we beginning to see reversed. I think that this leadership deficiency has come about because the Church understands, expects and has been afflicted by unchristlike Leadership. This leadership is by nature authoritarian, a top down approach to governing people, a leadership that dictates what others should do and how they should perform, demands that others do what it says, uses and abuses its power to make sure personal agendas are fulfilled, commands instead of encourages, orders instead of guides and steamrolls those who are not as *powerful*.

It is this display of dictatorship that has stolen the servant nature of Christ from those positions of leadership that God has set aside for those desiring to serve. It is time for a “Lord it over them” leadership approach, to stop! Why do I challenge you? Because it begins with you and it begins with me. Within each of us is a desire to see results, whether that be to see God's kingdom expanded, people come to know Jesus Christ, the poor provided for or the hungry fed. But how do we achieve this? We can command that people do as we say or we can show people who Jesus Christ is and let his life, example and spirit lead us forward. How are you leading?

CHALLENGE

Lk 22:24-26 A dispute arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. Jesus said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves.

Ken Blanchard and Phil Hodges in their book “Servant Leadership” write about the tension between Self-Serving Leadership verses Servant Leadership. They say “One of the quickest ways you can tell the difference between a servant leader and a self-serving leader is how they handle feedback, because one of the biggest fears that self-serving leaders have is to lose their position.” Because of this fear the self-serving leader steamrolls others in order to look bigger, better, faster, more reputable, more impressive, more successful. If the Church is to reflect the true nature of Jesus Christ we can never allow ourselves to be or become leaders who cling so desperately to position that we forget we are there to serve others.

Ponder this: What did Mother Teresa, Billy Graham, Mahatma Ghandi, Corrie Ten Boon and Florence Nightingale have in common?