

Leadership Issues

Integrity-Example-Balance

All of us are leaders. Someone is looking to you, being influenced by your example to some degree. The greater the influence you have the more important your character becomes. What are some of the issues that leaders face?

1.) Leaders must be people of integrity.

“The dictionary defines *integrity* as “the state of being complete, unified.” When I have integrity, my words and my deeds match up. I am who I am; no matter where I am or who I am with. . . If what I say and do are not the same, the results are inconsistent. . . Eighty-nine percent of what people learn comes through visual stimulation, 10 percent through audible stimulation, and 1 percent through the senses. So it makes sense that the more followers see and hear their leader being consistent in action and word, the greater their consistency and loyalty. *What they hear, they understand. What they see they believe!* Too often we attempt to motivate our followers with gimmicks that are short-lived and shallow. What people need is not a motto to say, but a model to see. . . Leaders must live by higher standards than their followers.” —John C. Maxwell *Developing The leader Within You*

Luke 12:47-48 "That servant who knows his master's will and does not get ready or does not do what his master wants will be beaten with many blows. 48But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

2.) Leaders must be an example to others.

“It is incumbent on all public teachers to be diligent in their private studies; and a fearful responsibility is incurred by those who, appointed to instruct others in religious matters, refuse to take the pains necessary to qualify them for the efficient discharge of such important duty. It is a grievous sin for ministers of religion to serve God with what costs them nothing, and to feed God’s people with husks instead of the finest of wheat.” —Pulpit Comm. vol. 13 pg. 109

1 Tim. 4:12 Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.

Titus 2:7 In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness

3.) Leaders must strive for balance.

Acts 20:28 Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.

1 Tim. 4:16 Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

RENEWAL MINISTRIES

of Colorado Springs

“These verses have special significance for us today because our society’s accelerated pace makes it more difficult than ever to maintain a balanced lifestyle with priorities in order. . . An accelerated pace of living is bound to have an effect on our personal lives, families, and ministries. The unique challenges of our age are producing a nervousness, anxiety, and stress unprecedented in human history. Some of the danger signal that can alert us to “put on the brakes” need to be heeded to before it’s too late.

Ten Danger Signals

1) Our devotional life is suffering - instead of being devoted to “the ministry of the word and prayer,” we find, in reality, that our personal prayer life is inconsistent or generally crowded out.

2) Our family life is being affected adversely - communication with our mat and children is not healthy. Consistent time for uninterrupted quality interaction is at best “minimal” and our loved one’s emotional tanks are somewhat near empty.

3) There is a nagging sense of being behind, hurrying and playing catch-up ball in the ministry as a “normal” way of life. Speed limits are exceeded regularly. Trying to do more than we should with our time - overbooking, arriving late because of trying to do a few extra things before leaving, getting tense or angry when things don’t go as planned - has become somewhat a way of life.

4) We find our self with a low threshold for inconvenience and more vulnerable to irritability, impatience and tension than ever before.

5) A “Sabbath” rest is now the exception rather than the norm a regular day off to be spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and physically refreshed and “recharged” is just not a part of our life (or we feel guilty if we do).

6) There is a sense of overall weariness (not tiredness which is cured by sleep and rest) - a sluggishness of spirit, a loss of inner motivation, a gnawing feeling inside that the joy is gone and “first love” devotion has long since departed.

7) Physical exercise is sporadic or virtually non-existent. Even though the first of the year brings a whole truckload of good intentions in the realm of physical exercise, most of them never materialize because motivation is missing.”

8) Physical ailments are increasing. These are not due to a virus, but to tension and stress. Headaches, indigestion, diarrhea, eye strain, respiratory problems, difficulty in sleeping and lower back pain all may be a part of a “temple” in dire need of repair.

9) The sense of “serving God with gladness” is just not there anymore - most of the time our life lacks joy. Deep inside we know we’re not really enjoying our wife, children or ministry anymore. It’s more of an endurance test than enjoyment.

10) We may even fight periodic thoughts of escaping or fleeing from the will of God or, at the worst, bring it all to an end. Five major figures in the Bible shared similar thoughts in moments of depression, including Moses, Jonah, and Elijah. “

—*The Church Planters Handbook, page 95*