

Devoted To Biblical Leadership

III

At the beginning of this service, we took the time to pray for our Asian-American siblings across North America in response to the increased awareness of this side of racial injustice.

We are always interacting with leadership of some kind. How do we distinguish between healthy and unhealthy leadership? The heart matters: Everything we do flows from the heart.

1 Peter 5:1-5

To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—**not because you must, but because you are willing**, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because,

"God opposes the proud
but shows favor to the humble."

The New International Version. (2011). (1 Pe 5:1–5). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

Shepherding

The primary metaphor for leadership throughout the Bible is centered around shepherding.

This isn't the most glamorous depiction of leadership, however, because shepherds had to rough it, fight off bears and lions, and lead the sheep in peaceful places.

Where Does Leadership Take Place?

Marriage is leadership

Parenting is leadership

Leading work projects is, (well, of course), leadership.

Hosting study groups? Leadership.

Hosting Bible studies? Leadership.

Leadership and shepherding is not compulsory and under obligation, but out of willingness and a servant's heart.

Compulsory Leadership

Think about a time when you had to lead a group due to compulsion? What was your work ethic like? Was it like doing the chores you didn't want to do?

What about a time when you wanted to serve and lead — even when doing the same thing?



The heart motivation and orientation is the groundwork for how we conduct our leadership; "follow me as I follow Christ."

We are not to lord a leadership position over others. It's not, "do as I say," but, "do as I do; follow me as I follow Christ."

We at ENCS see ourselves as shepherds and the church as the flock. We give leadership away and empower others to become shepherds as well.

It is for this reason that connecting to church family matters — attendance is not just a number. We want everyone to be connected and identify as part of a church, and when people treat attendance to church and checking in and out so casually, it hurts.

While we can't invest in every relationship, we care about everyone who checks in, and we encourage you to see yourself as entrusted to a group of people, to belong to a church family and a group of leaders. To be clear, this is to contrast to the consumeristic, casual attendance church mentality.

Accountability

All leadership is accountable to the chief shepherd. God rewards willing obedience, but also disciplines when we detour from that.

Biblical Shepherding

What are the heart motivations that God is looking for in all leadership everywhere?

He wants an attitude and heart motivation of humility.

Proverbs 3:34 (Quoted in 1 Peter 5)

"He mocks proud mockers
but shows favor to the humble and oppressed."

The New International Version. (2011). (Pr 3:34). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

See Also: Matthew 23:11-12

The greatest among you will be your servant. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

The New International Version. (2011). (Mt 23:11–12). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

Do we enter into leadership because "we have to?" Or because, "we want to?"

We don't serve for what we can get out of it, but for what we can give.

Leaders set an example and follow it, calling their followers to follow. And the leader models after the chief shepherd because they are accountable to Jesus.

Every moment we step into is an opportunity to clothe ourselves in humility and value others above ourselves. If we forget to put our "clothes" of humility on, it will be all levels of awkward and things not going the way they should go.

Philippians 2:3-4

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others

The New International Version. (2011). (Php 2:3–4). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

Humility is the prime heart motivation that shepherding leaders put on.

Wrapping Up

- In our workspace, do you serve and lead with humility, looking to lift others up and not ourselves?
- Do you practice oversight without lording over your followers or demanding from them?

- Do you display a willing and eager heart?
- In our homes, do we serve and lead with humility? Are we lording over our spouse or children? Or are we careful and protecting our family?
- What does your tone of voice and body language convey? Humility, or pride?

Humility is not laying down authority, leadership, or truth, but how we exercise authority, leadership, and truth. We are fallible, can make mistakes, and must learn from one another. But we honor authority, truth, and leadership.

Don't let humility be perverted; it is not forsaking truth or authority, but ascribing honor to each other and honoring the source of truth: Jesus.

Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less. — Pastor Tim Keller

- What example are you setting of who Jesus is in your leadership?



Humility is what makes shepherding leadership effective.