

## Extraordinary Christian Leadership

Think back to a supervisor who exhibited extraordinary Christian leadership. It probably was a time when you felt strong, caring support and grew the most as a person. You felt appreciated and valued, and that your supervisor really cared about you as a person. The well-being of your family was important to the supervisor. Coming to work as an employee or volunteer was fun because of the family atmosphere of the workplace.

This is the leadership style Jesus utilized in training His disciples for the ministry. Jesus knew his time on earth was limited. He needed to give significant attention to His disciples so they would be ready to carry out the ministry after He was gone. The future success of the ministry depended on the preparation and development of His team.

An excellent book entitled [The Master Plan of Evangelism](#) outlines Jesus' leadership style. The book is intended to lay out a plan for training leaders to do evangelical work for their church, but its principles are valid to prepare leaders in other fields as well. It provides a wonderful plan for Christian leadership much needed in today's pressure-packed world.



A Christian leader demonstrates their faith through their actions. You can trust their decisions because their strength and direction comes from God. Their guidebook is the scriptures. Christian leaders are willing to roll up their sleeves and do any task they ask others to do. They are sacrificial with their own time so that their employees and volunteers can have relief when it is needed. Noted Christian author A.W. Tozer wrote, "No man gives anything acceptable to God until he has first given himself in love and sacrifice." Everything the Christian leader does is because God loved us first.

The Christian leader doesn't need the biggest office or best seat at the table, just the biggest heart. *I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep (John 10:11).* Their entire life is a living witness of putting others before self.

They develop others by giving clear direction and check in often to review progress and offer guidance. They don't micro-manage but they are there to support when needed. They expect their employee's best efforts, but because they know their employees well, they know their current and future capabilities. Christian leaders genuinely care more about the individual than the task at hand. The old adage, "People don't care what you know until they know you care," is absolutely true. The result of following this principle wins the loyalty of employees and volunteers.

The Christian leader's goal is to develop leaders, not followers. Although teaching skills is important, the real goal is to develop better people. When that happens God brings out the best because everyone is in sync with God, and seeking to do God's will.

Christian leaders are inspirational by their very nature. It is just who they are – or better said, whose they are. They are servant leaders inspired by Jesus Christ. Others want to be like their caring, Christian leader.

Christian leaders believe in the power of the Trinity. They pray to God, the Father. They follow the example of Jesus Christ, the Son, whose ministry is explained through the scriptures. And they listen for guidance from the Holy Spirit, who places in our hearts and minds the direction to take. Employees will see the peace that faith brings to the leader, and they will want it too.



Leadership style is critical. Hard driving, authoritarian, unforgiving leaders yield unstable staff and volunteers – who are followers and doing only what is asked. Mere employees show little personal commitment because people are afraid of making a mistake. Laissez-faire leaders, in effect, ignore others, leaving them to sink or swim on their own. Laissez-faire leaders have blinders on to the needs of others, and miss the boat on how to develop other people. Contrast those two styles with a Christian leader's style. Christians know who the real leader is. The real leader is Jesus Christ, and not themselves. Jesus Christ empowers people when He said, *You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it (John 14:14)*. Because of Jesus' power, the Christian leader will bring success to those they serve.

**Question:** What characteristics of a Christian leader do you have? What areas are you seeking to improve?

**Scripture:** *When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him" (John 13:12-16).*

**Prayer:** Dear Lord, we thank You for Christian leaders you have placed in our midst. Even better, You have given us the example of a leader in Jesus Christ. Help us develop our own leadership style that is in keeping with the perfect example of Jesus Christ. Amen.