

Introduction to Leadership

Lesson designed by: Bob Turner

Course description: Part 7

This course continues to focus on the reasons men do not step up to lead.

Course Objectives: By the end of the class students will have:

- A. Examined two additional reasons men do not lead in the church today and reasons behind these occurrences.
- B. Described two ways we can overcome these hindrances.

Outline of the class:

- A. Continue to look at the list made in previous weeks that described reasons men do not lead in the church today.
- B. Take a few moments to review the two areas that were focused on last week and the ways we can overcome those hindrances. Ask the class to identify the ways to overcome these hindrances as discussed last week.
 - 1. Lack of ability
 - 2. Fear
 - 3. Too busy
 - 4. Lack of experience
 - 5. Lazy
 - 6. Indecisive
- C. The lesson today will focus on two additional areas described:
 - 1. Pessimism
 - a. Describe leaders who are pessimistic: what do they say or do?
 - i. They say things like, "It can't be done."
 - ii. They claim, "we've tried that before and it did not work."
 - iii. They put a negative spin or cloud over every activity and suggestion.
 - iv. They allow a defeatist mindset to exist and they promote it.

- b. What causes someone to be pessimistic? Ask for suggestions:
 - i. Previous failures
 - ii. Disappointments in life
 - iii. Being around other negative people
 - iv. Little faith at best, no faith at worst
 - v. No vision, goals, or plans
 - c. Consider the results of pessimism
 - i. Discouragement
 - ii. Bad attitudes (which become contagious)
 - iii. Nothing gets done
 - iv. Influences people to quit
 - d. The challenge is dealing with this mindset and how to overcome it to promote a more positive atmosphere.
 - i. Focus as much as possible on the positive things that have happened, the successes, goals achieved, etc.
 - ii. Pull the pessimistic influencer aside and strongly encourage them to stop it because of how it affects others.
 - iii. Eliminate negative words such as “can’t, never, hasn’t, won’t, etc.”
 - iv. Assign the negative person to a team of positive and enthusiastic players.
 - v. Promote the cause and connect them to that cause.
 - vi. Focus on the possibilities (prevent discussion of impossibilities).
2. Walk by sight
- a. Ask for a discussion of what it means to walk by sight.
 - i. Rely only on the senses: hear, see, taste, touch, smell
 - ii. Worry or anxiety
 - iii. Trust our emotions over facts
 - iv. Strive for perfection rather than faithfulness

- b. The opposite of walking by sight is walking by faith. How can the church promote greater opportunity and ability to walk by faith? Ask for discussion.
 - i. Encourage others that all things are possible with God.
 - ii. We need to be reminded that we cannot make it on our own.
 - iii. Does counting the cost mean that we are walking by sight?

Conclusion:

- A. We continue to see various areas that hinder men from serving in the church today. We've already discussed the lack of ability, fear, too busy, lack of experience, lazy, indecisiveness, pessimism, and walking by sight.
- B. We need to consider a plan for how we can move beyond these hindrances, address the challenges that exist, and overcome them in ways that promote greater leadership development.
- C. We need to pray for wisdom, discuss the problems, ask unqualified leaders to step down, enlist and train leaders, appoint those who are qualified, define the position well, support current leaders, keep communication open, urge all to count the cost before accepting the responsibility, and always strive to improve our proficiency.
- D. Strive for excellence: Aristotle said, "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence is not an act, but a habit."