

Branches Pt 1 Leadership Foundations

- I. Tonight, we start our series on leadership.
 - a. If you want to follow along, grab a copy of “The Greatest Among You” by Randy Sims.
 - b. I’m really excited about this because I have a particular passion for leadership.
 - c. “Where the head goes, the _____.”
 - i. We learned this in our karate class when it came to wrestling (or grappling) with an opponent.
 1. It didn’t matter how much bigger the other guy was. If you could force his head a certain way, the rest of his body would follow.
 - ii. It’s the same way with any group or organization.
 1. A group _____ on its leadership.
 2. You teach what you know, but you _____.
 - d. No matter what you choose to do, learning to lead is a necessity in life.
- II. Leadership defined.
 - a. Leadership is defined as “the process of influencing the actions of individuals and organizations in order to obtain certain results.”
 - b. Leadership is _____.
 - i. Every one of us influences others in some way every day.
 1. For good or for bad.
 - c. Influence is power.
 - i. Sometimes the person in the organization with the title of leader isn’t necessarily the one with the influence.
 - ii. “The man or woman who can influence others to behave in ways they wouldn’t ordinarily choose exerts real control and real power.” –Sims
 - d. Learn to use it for God’s glory and not abuse it.
- III. Lead. Don’t push!
 - a. Successful leadership knows how to influence, rather than _____.
 - b. So often, leaders fall to the temptation to twist arms, manipulate, and pull rank.
 - i. They lead from their position, instead of their influence.
 - ii. “A leader must understand that those he leads desire to excel but will not unless encouraged, challenged, and rewarded.” –Sims

- iii. “A leader doesn’t lord, exercise authority, give guilt trips, manipulate, or push. As a leader you are a servant who assists others in becoming the person _____, reaching the goals in which they aspire.”
- iv. Booker T. Washington said, “There are two ways of exerting one’s strength: one is pushing down, the other is _____.”
- c. Mark 10:42–45 says, “So Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.”
- d. Example is **EVERYTHING! (CAREFUL HOW YOU TALK! DON’T COMPLAIN!)**
- e. Be a _____, not a thermometer.
 - i. Don’t let your example fluctuate with your circumstances or the attitudes of others.
 - ii. “As a leader, you must maintain a constant temperature. Those around you will depend upon your consistent ability to remain focused on the goal even when the circumstances are fluctuating.”

IV. Leadership is _____.

- a. Roger Staubach said, “In business or in football, it takes a lot of unspectacular preparation to produce spectacular results.”
- b. It’s the mundane, unexciting tasks of study, prayer, personal growth, and keeping our lives organized that forge the valuable virtues in us to help us lead.
- c. Work hard when _____.
 - i. I used to preach to an empty room.
 - ii. The greatest musicians still practice their instrument every day.
- d. “When the small is ignored, prepare to deal with disaster.”
- e. Get up and DO something; don’t just dream about it!

V. The foundation for good leadership is _____.

- a. Jesus was the ultimate leader while He was here on earth.
 - i. He’s considered by today’s sociologists to be the most influential man who ever lived.
 - 1. Think about it. He had a three year ministry 2,000 years ago and millions still follow Him today. Some are even willing to be tortured and die for Him.
- b. Getting to know Jesus is the best way to grow to be more like Him.
 - i. We become like _____.

- c. God's desire is for us to be more like Jesus,
 - i. Romans 8:28, 29 says, "And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters."

VI. Christ-Likeness demands _____.

- a. Jesus was never half-hearted
- b. A half-way job doesn't echo around the world for a couple millennia.
- c. "Christians have an obligation to be Christ-like by example whether it is in conduct, speech, or attitude. As this is manifested in day-to-day excellence, Christians will have the opportunity to point to the source of their excellence, Jesus Christ".
- d. Think about when you've received half-hearted service or watched a horrible, sloppily made movie.
- e. Excellence draws people in, while sloppiness makes people feel _____.
- f. Excellence requires hard work, but it's worth it!

VII. The goal of successful leadership is being like Jesus.

- a. If you want to know if your actions were successful, look to see if you were _____ in your approach.
- b. Philippians 2:3-5 says, "Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave, and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross."

VIII. Christian = Little Christ

- a. Christ-likeness should be our goal, even if we never wish to hold the title of leader.
- b. It comes from _____ and being alive to what He wants.