



Want Leadership Expertise?

By Kurt von Schleicher

***Leadership Principles Are Given For God's Glory.
They Are Not Merely For Bigger Smooth Running Organizations.***

Are you focused on the subject of *leadership development* more than on the person of Jesus Christ? Some people seem to be, but don't be! I don't even love fishing near as much as I love the Chief Fisher (I'm taking about Jesus).

What is leadership even for? How do you define true leadership?

We are living in a day when many people want to become "specialists" in a specific area—even in the Church. Hey, nothing wrong with that if the Lord is being glorified—if you are letting Him do the leading.

I've run into several so called Christian (and even Mormon; yes, cultist) motivational speakers out there making quite a chunk of change these days, using quotes from spiritual giants of yesteryear (from Christian leaders) and leadership verses from the Bible to get people all excited about "leading" and developing their organizations into finely honed streamlined machines of sorts. Some of them are bestselling authors on a mission. And because many businesspeople are interested in the bottom-line and upward mobility, there seems to be a market for such leadership recourses regardless of where the author is coming from. Many pastors don't even realize they are reading the writings from cultists.

Lots of people have this strong desire to make their corporations, para-church ministries and local churches the most profitable that they can be.

Rather than become a "*jack of all trades*" so to speak (a person who might have experience in a lot of areas, but lack expertise in one area), these people want to become a "*master of one;*"—they want to make a living from training people to lead and build bigger.

Hey, I can understand that. And some of these guys are real Christians and I really like them as individuals. I even enjoy logging some of the quotes they give out, to go see if they are actually biblical—nothing at all wrong with that. We all need to do like the Bereans did in the Book of Acts right!

And some of these leaders of leaders (or leadership trainers) charge hefty entrance fees for their Madison Avenue styled high tech seminars, webcasts or collaborative webinars and have exorbitant price points for their slick looking product decked with such cutting-edge graphics.

Let's face it; we live in a culture that is obsessed with youth, productivity, beauty, stardom, pleasure and SUCCESS for the financial benefit for SELF. We live in a land where people are looking out of number one and looking for happiness ahead of all other things.

I'm not saying that all of the leadership gurus are pandering to this or are selfish, but what they package seems to be appealing to many in this category. And there is nothing wrong with enjoying financial prosperity and success if you have your priorities in order and have Christ as your Lord. You already know that it's not money, in and of itself, that's wicked—the ***“love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows”*** ([1 Tim. 6:10](#)).

And what some of the leadership experts say even sounds others-orientated at times. I believe that some of them are others-orientated! I believe the inner motives of some of them are right. I won't judge their hearts.

I've even heard some of them say they are there so that *you can have a bigger better company, increase your bottom-line; yup, gain more money and have a higher quality of life.*

But the Bible verses they quote weren't written to lost people. They weren't given so lost people can build bigger companies, bigger churches and ministries filled with lost people. They weren't even given so Christian leaders could build better organizations for themselves and thus enjoy a higher quality of life. Those Bible verses were written for Christians who want to worship God in Christ better. They were written so real believers can disciple others better and so they can also witness to unbelievers right. Many of the good principles contained in the Christian quotes these trainers present, that were first spoken by great soul-winners, are for those who want to know God and make Him known more. The Bible wasn't actually written to us, but for us—for all Christians who want to evangelize wisely!

So, if you are a motivational speaker doing this—who is lost—then simply repent and come to Christ today. Change; it's not about you or what you can get. It's about Him and obedience to His Word.

Maybe you are a Christian doing this. If so, change. Try something new and present truth in an appeal for your hearers to repent and become Christians along with becoming spiritual leaders who set an example.

Jesus asked in Mark 8:36, "***For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?***" That's a good question huh. What are you living for? What's your master-passion?

Christian, your primary calling in life is not to make more skilled leaders. It's not to develop leaders (who remain lost) or who grow bigger, more profitable organizations filled with lost people doing their thing. Why waste your years trying to reform sinners or perfect the companies of unbelievers who are leading lost people for the purpose of gain and remaining lost themselves... when you could be winning people to righteousness? Your primary calling is unto Jesus Himself for God's glory.

Hey gang, I am certainly not against bigger organizations that aren't hurting people, nor against seeing churches grow bigger. I don't have anything against motivational speakers per se, and I'm not against the work of motivational speakers who have their priorities right. I earnestly want to see more Christ-honoring mega churches (and other churches preaching Jesus) that teach through all the counsels of God from the Bible ..and that properly harvest lost people into God's Kingdom! That's what God wants and I pray for this to happen. I don't mind seeing people get rich who are also rich in the things of God. My aim is not to get rich financially, but I personally would like to help people get rich in multiple ways—yes, in all the ways that God wants those individuals rich.

"Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; for You I wait all the day" ([Ps. 25:5](#)).

"Now therefore, I pray You, if I have found favor in Your sight, let me know Your ways that I may know You, so that I may find favor in Your sight" ([Ex. 33:13](#)).

"O Lord, lead me in Your righteousness because of my foes; make Your way straight before me" ([Ps. 5:8](#)).

Minister, where are you expending most of your time and effort? Are you investing most of it in constructing an awesome fish tank for the purpose of fish being attracted to it (I mean so people will visit..), or in praying the price and launching out into the deep to cast a net for the purpose of catching fish? Keeping the sheep shed presentable is indeed necessary, but are you more a maintainer of the attractive comfortable aquarium or a catcher of fish that need cleaning?

Leader...

Don't look—you might see.

Don't listen—you might hear.

Don't think—you might learn.

Don't make a decision—you might be wrong.

Don't walk—you might stumble.

Don't run—you might fall.

Don't live—you might die.

Don't reprioritize—you might grow.

Don't witness—you might win some lost soul to Christ!

No really; please do!

The Apostle Peter challenged leaders to be doers saying, ***"Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory"*** (1 Pet. 5:1-4). And Paul said it this way, ***"Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us"*** (Phil. 3:17).

As is the minister-leader so are the people typically, ***"...like people, like priest"*** (see Hosea 4:9, nkjv). As are the elders so are the people for the most part. Of the fifteen characteristics that Elders must have, only one of the characteristics has to do with gifting (being able to teach) and the rest deal with godly living.

Do you think that giftings are more important? It would appear that the New Testament places a greater emphasis on Christians having loving character than it does on stressing charisma in their lives.

The church of Jesus Christ does not progress beyond the spiritual progress of its leaders and it also typically fishes like them ...if they will fish at all. It's radically important for the leaders to have godly character and biblical faith. You can only grow as high so to speak ..spiritually as your leader grows. Christian, if you study, pray and apply God's Word, you can grow as high as your leader.

If you have saved worshiping elders in the church that you attend, you will more than likely have saved and worshiping people there. If you teach through the entire Bible... if you preach Christ with expectancy... if you have the people-loving kind of elders that keep their noses in the Word, you will see that same passion among the flock. Yes, you will have people-loving-spiritual-Christians who are bibliophiles.

If your church has Christian elders who love to pray and evangelize, I believe you will have evangelizing people that make a difference. If you have hospitable elders, you will for the most part have hospitable people. If you have kindhearted elders, you will have kindhearted people. If you have godly elders, you will probably have godly people. If you have greedy preachers who habitually pressure the people, you will have a lot of greedy people giving to get. If you have mean-spirited egotistical pastors with a my family-first mentality, your church will know well what attrition is all about.

They'll do what you do, leader, more than do what you say to do. So don't have a *do as I say not as I do* attitude.

So what are you trying to be and build? What's your thing? Maybe you're not a "specialized" and motivated "leadership" speaker. Are you into using psychobabble self-

help stuff to gain a living? Are you trying to help people reach a state of self-actualization or help them by building up their self-esteem? Stop!

The angels have never experienced the saving grace of God, so they can't use His law to bear witness and reap as we can. Telling others about the Savior is a solemn obligation as well as an uber-humongous privilege, and we who are believers must be faithful in this. If we aren't who will?

Listen, effective lighthouses are built by ex-drowning sailors, rather than by men who merely spent some time at the shipyard questioning the fisherman. And God delights in building witnessing churches (and even sound organizations) through ex-lost people who have a hunger for Him instead of a craving for cash!

“My one purpose in life is to help people find a personal relationship with God...” —Billy Graham

“You are called and commissioned to engage your world for Jesus!”
—Joseph Stowell

Perhaps you are one who really wants to become the best kind of leader in your field. [Be born again](#) and follow Jesus Christ who is the greatest Leader of leaders... ***“For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost”*** ([Lk. 19:10](#)).

Remember, you and I can't save anyone, but we can boldly *lead* them to the Word of God. Jesus is waiting with open arms. Please live for Him 100% and lead Christians into more effective fishing ...for people. Let's all live right, value what God values, and cast the wisely-baited-line out—or better yet—cast the net and leave the results up to the Lord! Yup, let's do it enthusiastically for God's glory, so that people will be caught and can live forever!