Theology of Biblical Leadership

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About Sunset Graduate School:

• Graduate School History
• Present Leadership
• Academic Offerings
• The Future of Sunset Graduate School
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Advantages of Sunset Graduate School: TUITION

- Tuition Rates per Credit Hour
- Total Tuition (36 Hour Program)

- Sunset Graduate School
  - $75
  - $2,700

- Average Online College*
  - $355
  - $12,700

- Average Brotherhood Masters in Religion+
  - $533
  - $19,188

* Average determined based upon the tuition rates of five prominent schools among Churches of Christ (ACU, OCU, Harding, Lipscomb, and Faulkner)

+ Average determined based upon the tuition rates of five prominent schools among Churches of Christ (ACU, OCU, Harding, Lipscomb, and Faulkner)
Advantages of Sunset Graduate School: TRANSFERS

- **Tuition Savings:**
  - Sunset Tuition Rate - $1,350
  - Average Online Graduate School - $6,390
  - Brotherhood Graduate School - $9,594

- Transfer Hours:
  - 0
  - 2
  - 4
  - 6
  - 8
  - 10
  - 12
  - 14
  - 16
  - 18

- Sunset
- Average Grad School
What is Leadership?

“What leadership” suffers from an “obscurity of definition.”

A Leader is:

“a guide, conductor: a person who directs a military force or unit: a person who has commanding authority or influence.” - Merriam-Webster

As we consider the Leadership from a Theological/Biblical perspective, how accurate is the Webster definition?

Is leadership primarily about authority or influence?

Do the objectives of authority and influence necessarily go hand in hand?
What is Leadership?

Different Types of Leadership:

1. Autocratic (Dictatorial)- Leadership with undisputed authority and control; commanding.
2. Manipulative- Leaders seek to produce results by clever/hidden means; generally using the emotions of those being led.
3. Disengaged (Free-Reign)- Does not oversee; disinterested in the process only in results.
4. Democratic (Participatory)- Leaders make decisions based upon the will/desires of those they lead.
5. Mentoring- Subtle leadership which seeks to better followers through close relationships; leaders become a model for followers to imitate.
What is Leadership?

One Who Directs Others Can Be Seen as:

1. A Commander
2. A Manager
3. An Administrator
4. A Shepherd

Each term carries a different sense of responsibility. Leadership is carried out with a different focus.
Church Leadership is Servant Leadership

Matthew 20:25-28

Although many of the world’s leadership principles apply to the Church environment, the leadership we aspire to is FUNDAMENTALLY DIFFERENT. It is not built upon the same foundations. The paradigm is opposite that of the world.

SERVICE... SACRIFICE... LOVE... These are the TRUE pillars of leadership!
The Church as a Context for Leadership:

Although every institution requires leadership, there is no greater context in which leadership is needed that within the Kingdom of God.

Church leadership is challenging and often imposing, yet in God’s service leaders are born and aspire to heights unknown in all other endeavors.
The Church as a Context for Leadership:


- Notice how many times their reliance upon the Apostles is mentioned. What is the implied connection between leader and follower?
- Which model(s) of leadership were practiced by the Apostles?
- Would any of the leadership paradigms previously discussed have produced the same results?
2. Leadership for Unity. Ephesians 4:1-16

- Unity within the Body is an ambitious endeavor. Unity is difficult to achieve and fragile in nature.
- Attitudes of Unity are discussed (vs. 3-4). What manner of leadership would be necessary to develop such traits in followers?
- Absolutes of Unity are cemented (vs. 4-6). How must leadership approach principles that cannot be compromised?
- Agents of Unity are named (vs. 11-14). Different positions of leadership are includes who all work together for the common aim. Does the reference to children have application?
The Church as a Context for Leadership:

3. Leadership for Growth. Matthew 28:16-20

- Some still doubted (vs. 17). How essential is it for leaders to instill confidence in their followers? How does Jesus?
- This outlines the ultimate directive for Christ’s Kingdom. Jesus is appointing these eleven men as His leaders. He doesn’t shirk from giving them massive responsibility and a daunting task. What does that tell us?
- He establishes His authority as the basis of their assignment. In leading God’s people, this must be foremost upon our hearts- to ALWAYS SUBMIT TO HIS AUTHORITY!
Video: What Do People Want From Leaders?
Biblical Examples of Leadership:

1. Moses

Moses is an exceptional model of leadership. He came to his position with resistance and doubted his own ability to lead. Yet, he became one of the world’s greatest icons of leadership and management. Some lessons learned through his life:

- Exodus 15:22-25  A Leader Will Be Complained To And Must Listen.
- Exodus 18:7-10, 17-18  Leaders Need Close Confidants/Mentors.
- Exodus 18: 19-24  Leaders Must Delegate.
- Numbers 12:1-2  Even the Best Leaders Face Jealousy in Others.
- Numbers 12:3; Exodus 3:6  Leaders Must Practice True Humility.
Biblical Examples of Leadership:

2. Joshua

Joshua spent his entire life in preparation for leadership under the mentorship of the world’s greatest leader. What did he learn?

- He Learned **STRENGTH IN HUMILITY.** Joshua 5:13-15
- He Learned to **EXERCIZE FAITH IN SPITE OF PUBLIC SENTIMENT.** Numbers 14:6-9
- He Learned to Be **BOLD IN HIS TRUST.** Joshua 7:6-9
- He learned to **REVERE GOD’S WILL.** Joshua 8:30-35
- He learned to **TRUST GOD FOR SUCCESS.** Joshua 10:12-14
Biblical Examples of Leadership:

3. Nehemiah

No leader in Scripture has captured more attention than Nehemiah. His leadership was effective and motivational. His call to leadership may be the most profound aspect of his story.  

Nehemiah 1

Nehemiah was particularly skilled at handling opposition. Chapters 4 and 5 outline repeated setbacks followed by advance, followed by more setbacks. His opponents ridiculed, threatened, and extorted to stop progress, yet Nehemiah pressed on by:

- **Turning the People to God to Overcome Doubt.** 4:3-6
- **Facing Threats Head-On By Arming the People.** 4:11-17, 20
- **Exercising Stern Rebuke to Those Who Hurt to Cause.** 5:1-10
Leadership Connected to Giftedness

Moses and Gideon did not realize their potential for leadership. Some do not see gifts they have, and others focus too much on gifts they don’t possess. Leaders should develop their giftedness for success.

Romans 12:3-8
Video: Be Awesome at Anything
The Shepherd Model of Leadership:
Psalm 23

   “Still waters” refresh skittish sheep.
2. Shepherds Provide Restoration. 3
   Broken people need healing.
1. Shepherds Provide Protection. 4
   “Rod” and “Staff” had different functions.
1. Shepherds Provide Blessings. 5-6
   “Tableland” was cleared of thorns and bramble.
Video: Stop Leading, Start Serving
Jesus The Greatest Leader

1. Put The Father’s Will First.  John 4:34; 6:38; 8:28
3. Made Disciples.  Matthew 10
4. Drew the Best Out of People.  John 1:42
5. Submitted to God’s Timing.  John 2
7. Lived Real Servanthood.  Philippians 2:5-8
10. Memorized Scripture.