



Leadership Training for Leaders Inside and Outside the Church



## Welcome to the TCL Leadership Network

“Leadership is the art and science of inspiring others to reach their full potential in the pursuit of a common vision”

Dr. James Bultman

*What TCL Course Participants Say*

*"I just wanted to thank you for that class and I thought you did a great job opening my eyes to what real leadership is."*

*"Thank you Ron for an outstanding series. My wife and I really enjoyed it. It was very refreshing. We wish it could have gone longer."*

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What is YOUR definition of leadership?

Today the word is used in so many ways it can get confusing. We talk about our “country’s leadership”, our “business leadership”, and “church leadership”. In almost every case the word is used in an authoritative descriptive way. In the examples above it communicates a plural form of something positional ... namely a group of more than two leaders.

To bring clarity to this thing called leadership we must understand how and why we use the word and what we think of when we hear it. When the Bible declared it a spiritual gift in Romans 12:8, Paul was not referring to the gift of “more than one leader”! He was describing a relationship between two people ... *“If it is leadership, then let him govern diligently”* (NIV) - referring to the relationship between those that govern and those that are being governed. The first word “if” here is not asking a question about the person’s position ... no it is asking whether or not the person actually has this ability and this spiritual gift.

In short think of it as our own dictionary describes it .... Leaders are people and being a leader IS being in a position. However, leadership is a gift found in the relationship between a leader and the one who follows. When the gift is found it looks just like this definition by Dr. James Bultman. *“Leadership is the art and science of inspiring others to reach their full potential in the pursuit of a common vision”*. This definition is on my front page, this e-lead letter and on the bottom of every email I send out.

This definition summarizes that it is all about the follower being the primary recipient of what flows from the leader, not the other way around. “Inspiration” flows into the followers ... “full potential” is achieved by the follower! The only common factor is the vision. Show me a leader good at leadership and I will show you a leader who either has great

vision embraced by his/her followers, or one who pursues with delight the vision of others.

So how do we reconcile the fact that each of us knows an unbeliever or two who are very skillful at leading people? They have certain morals, they seem like nice people and they produce results. What is different about them and us as believers?

The difference is this. If you are a Christian and if you have the skill of a good leader, then God wants you to use it for kingdom purposes. The moment you acknowledge His purpose with your skill, the Holy Spirit transforms it into a spiritual gift to be used for Kingdom purposes.

So am I saying that skillful Christian people that are leading outside the church must ultimately have a kingdom purpose? To answer I say this ... If you are a Christian and you have the gift of leadership ... then eventually you will have a kingdom purpose because of the gift God gave you.

Friends, why wait to find a kingdom purpose when you must already have a good idea of what it could be? Find joy in using what God gave you toward a kingdom purpose and He will bless it beyond measure. Live in pursuit of the kingdom purpose and you will discover a new bond with your church leaders and they will find a new bond with you.

Ron Porter

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