



Leadership Training for Leaders Inside and Outside the Church

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

Dr. James Bultman



Recent Testimony

On behalf of our leadership team I want to express heartfelt thanks to you for spending time with us at our retreat Saturday, Sept. 27. I have received many positive comments... particularly regarding the presentations you shared with us.

Your material was very helpful in lifting our sights regarding Christian leadership. We were inspired and informed. Your presentations were practical and helpful. I was impressed with all of the six topics you shared with us in this day-long seminar; but especially with “Listening Like Jesus”, and “Leading a Good Meeting”.

I was also impressed with the fact that you did not “talk down” to us or come in to be a “critical-analytical” observer. You truly did model a Biblical style in the tone and emphasis in your presentations. We were all benefitted and would gladly re-invite you to share with our leaders on another occasion.

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The TCL E-Leadership Resource Got a Meeting to Run to Today? (Acts 15)

Some of the most important times in a leader’s life take place when they attend and/or lead meetings. Think about it for a moment ... if we spend so much time in meetings, then would it not be reasonable to expect them to be enjoyable experiences? So many times leaders dread going to meetings. Why is that? One reason is that good leaders work hard in meetings. Discussions and debate take a lot of focus and energy, even if you are sitting in a nice high back chair. Since it is hard work, we overlook the joy that comes from attending and/or leading a good meeting. Another reason is that not all of them go well. Some know they are not going to go well before they even start.

I have been the chairman of a number of boards. Lately, I have begun my term in leading these by sharing my vision for the board. My meeting vision is this:

Our Meeting’s Vision

As team members, it is our aim to participate and have fellowship in God honoring meetings. We commit our individual gifts and abilities toward fostering a meeting environment that we run to and not from. While we acknowledge the seriousness of our work, we endeavor to meet with a joy that is contagious and worth modeling for other meetings in our organization. In the making of our decisions, we submit to the wisdom of God and His Spirit who guides us.

I will be the first one to admit the above is quite a challenge, for getting folks to “run” to your meetings is almost too lofty of a goal. However, we as leaders and/or chairpersons of meetings need to have a goal. We must set our sights on something worth working for ... something worth preparing for.

Let us talk about preparation. The most important component in accomplishing the meeting vision is **the amount of time the leader spends in preparing for the meeting. (Repeat!!!)** Some of you are questioning that statement. You are just thinking of the time to create an agenda, and while that is part of what one does, it is only a small part of preparation.

Ask a teacher how much he/she prepares to teach and compare that with the time you are spending preparing for your next meeting. Ponder the importance of each outcome.

I have chaired a couple hundred meetings in the last several years. Only by the grace of God can I communicate to you that although this period contained many of the most serious subjects and debates, I remember only one no vote in all of that time, and that was on the only conference call meeting I led ... a call I should have prepared for better.

What or how should you prepare? There is not enough space here so I will only cover a small portion of what I teach, beginning with seven components detailed from the “Meetings Vision”. Begin by determining what you should do **before** the meeting to insure each of these components takes place **most** of the time.

Seven Components of a Good Meeting

(Read Acts 15, see how many you see)

1. **Fellowship:** Encourage others and model fellowship by spending time with teammates outside the meeting.
2. **Participation:** Specifically ask each person to share opinions during meetings, and meet with the talkers outside the meeting to get their help.
3. **Use of Personal Expertise:** If you have building on the agenda, then make sure the builder on your board is good to go! Not sure? Talk to him!
4. **Enjoyment – Laughter:** Make fun of yourself first!
5. **Seriousness:** Have meetings for a good purpose. Identify topics clearly.
6. **Accomplishment:** Always have a goal to get something done or agreed to.
7. **Spirit Led, God Honoring:** Spend time with the Lord asking Him to help you facilitate. Each of us has a sinful nature in the meeting with us. Pray that it does not show its ugly face.

I hope I have given you some things to think about to improve your next meeting. Now, run to it, don’t walk!

Ron Porter

Founder – TheChristianLeader.org

