

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

Dr. James Bultman



*Today Scripture
References
2 Cor 5:17-19*

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

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The TCL E-Leadership Resource Leadership & Reconciliation- 2 Cor 5:17-19

People that have become leaders for any length of time will eventually find that there are times where they fall out of fellowship with one or more of their followers for a variety of reasons. A short list would include:

1. A simple misunderstanding
2. Poor performance by the follower
3. Poor management by the leader

Invariably small issues can fester within teams only to be compounded by some new conflict. Trying to build a team with a variety of broken relationships will ultimately develop an aroma of disunity.

One of the hardest things a leader will do will be to initiate reconciliation. Why? ... Because it is very hard to do. A regenerate leader has to put off the "old self", who wants others to take the first step. Forget for the moment when we just need to eat some humble pie and apologize for our actions. That is hard, but not as hard as initiating reconciliation when one of your followers has performed poorly, and through correction or discipline, falls out of fellowship with you. While some form of relational stress is expected, effective leaders watch diligently for the remnants of bitterness or anger. When these signs don't subside in a reasonable length of time, the leader needs to take action.

What are we called to do in today's scripture reference above? Take a moment to read it again and see if you see at least four things I see.

1. Recognize God's call for us to do what we normally would not want to do. We are a "new creation" putting off what we use to want to do. Sometimes the old self wants to initiate pain, not reconciliation.

2. Acknowledge that God is not calling us to do something He has not modeled for us first. He gave us a ministry that is precious. We need to treat and treasure it like a gift.

3. Learn also that the wrongs of our followers should not "count against" them so much that you as a leader would fade from your role as the "initiator".

4. Preach and teach reconciliation within your organization or ministry. If we model it, we can not only teach others to do it, we can require it within our organizations and churches. Ban the soil in which Satan likes to farm!

God took the initiative to reconcile himself with us through sending his Son. We were completely in the wrong and should have gone to him first begging to be reconciled to Him. But man did not do that, nor could man accomplish on his own what Christ accomplished for us. God took the initiative with us; we must take the initiative with those we lead.

Would you agree with me that everyone reading this has some form of relationship that could be shored up? If you would try today to become an "Initiator", trust me when I say that a blessing is waiting for you.

Yours In Christ

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