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“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 Reference

Philippians 2: 3-8

Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross .



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The TCL E-Leadership Resource Leadership Style? Your Choice ...

I really need to be careful with this article. There has been so much written on leadership style by so many honorable men, I hesitate to share what I believe. However, I share with the hope and prayer that what I write will help someone break out of a stagnant life in leadership. I truly hope it will help someone grow.

Let me begin by getting the hard part on paper. The hard part is this. Many leaders use the idea of "leadership style" as an excuse for their lack of leadership. They need to make an excuse for what they don't have, or what they don't understand, so they attribute their own behavior as legitimate and call it "their style". Those who are confused would like to believe that their style is just different, yet still a legitimate form of leadership. This is just not true. While there may be different ways of living out ones personality that might be considered style, the underlying leadership principle looks the same. To illustrate, I ask if you have seen very many different "styles" of humility? I don't know about you, but when I see humility, it all looks the same. They all resemble an aspect of our scripture verse ... it always looks like Christ. When I watch a leader primarily focused on things that almost always benefit others more than themselves, I see a servant ... I see Christ ... always the same ... always looking like Christ.

You will hear style excuses far more often in the ministry world than the business world. Why? Because the local pastor believes that by and through God's call for them to preach the gospel, comes the ability AND responsibility to lead and govern the congregation from point A to point B. Pastors then carry a weight on their shoulders that was never intended to be there. As they bang their heads against the ceiling of their leadership ability, the weight of it makes them weary. Many of them quit as a result. This is the major reason the average church in America has only 80-100 attendees.

While business leaders could make the same excuse for their ineffective leadership, the stakes are not quite as high, because they don't experience the same kind of "eternal" weight. Notice I said "ineffective leadership", not "unprofitable leadership". Those who use unChrist-like leadership can still make a ton of money.

I am aware that my own ability to grow in business has more to do with what I lack than any legitimate aspect of my personality or style. The last two people I have interviewed have in them what I believe we current leaders lack, and are therefore an important component for our future growth.

Leadership 101 is not a choice of style, it is simply a choice. While the "art and science" of leadership is fairly complex, the first decision in a leader's life is very simple. Will you lead like the example Christ modeled or what the world tempts you with? You can find clues to the path you have chosen by examining 5 areas of your leadership.

1. What you focus on as a leader.
2. Why people primarily follow and listen to you.
3. The quality of the work your followers produce individually.
4. Your impact on the people you lead.
5. The resulting attitude toward your leadership.

I will unpack these five areas in the articles to come. However, might I exhort you to ponder these areas of your life and see if you come to any interesting conclusions about your current approach to leadership.

My guess is that your answers will have nothing to do with your style or personality.