

Church Leadership in Rural America

Surviving Church Leadership

In every church model there is a leadership part; some greater some less, but nonetheless there is a leadership quotient. There is also a business part or climate. Basically it is the way that your area, people, and denomination or experiences expect for things to work. To survive church leadership we must breakdown both sides of the church model we use.

† **LEADERSHIP IDENTITY** – there is an identity to both sides of the church model.

- Denominational or experiential identity.
 - ☛ What has God said to your group?
 - ✓ Do you agree with it?
 - ✓ Does your church embrace it?
 - ✓ Are you doing it?
 - ✓ What adjustments need to be considered?
 - ☛ The question of consideration needs to be asked!
 - ☛ The “lone ranger” dies without proper considerations!
 - ☛ Unrealistic expectations of adjustment are deadly!
 - ☛ What denominational or experiential values are parts of your identity?
 - ✓ Beliefs are always a part of identity!
 - ✓ Impact (past or promised) is rarely a part of identity for anyone other than the choir.
 - ✓ Language is almost always a part of identity.
 - ☛ How your church talks represents your identity.
 - ☛ Talking is always affected by filters. How “you” hear and how “they” hear is different.
- Leader identity.
 - ☛ Person – who you are.
 - ✓ Calling, character, heart capture, and commissioning all play a part.
 - ☛ Have you **CLEARLY** spoken your personal vision?
 - ☛ Do you **CONTINUE** to speak and transparently relate growth and changes to vision?
 - ☛ Do you **COMMIT** to God’s outcome publically by embracing your mistakes, learning, disciplines, and successes?
 - ☛ Position – what you do.
 - ✓ What you do should be definable by Biblical examples and scriptural evidences.
 - ☛ Do you have a **CLEAR** understanding of what is expected of you?
 - ☛ Do you **CONTINUALLY** express your transparency in relationship to what is expected?
 - ☛ Do you **COMMIT** your position to God’s outcome publically by embracing the Biblical mandate associated?

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- ☛ Performance – how you do.
 - ✓ Can you separate your performance from the worldly confines of expectations?
 - ☛ A worldly expectation unchallenged by Biblical truth will lead to a conflict of self-interests!
 - ☛ Because of the “imbalance” of calling and giftedness – the fact that you are not called or gifted to do everything – you will have to expose your church to your strengths and weaknesses.

- † **LEADERSHIP WILDCARD, TIME** – there is a wildcard that can change, or at least restart all these discussions.
 - What time is it! Your leadership, both denominational and individual, the ministry and the church are governed by timing that is more than a little hard to grasp and even harder to define.
 - ☛ “Chronos” the space of time or clock time.
 - ✓ Your church has been affected by the passing of time and it has affected the folks!
 - ☛ If you knowingly or unknowingly accept the affects of time on your church you will be destined to look like the past!
 - ☛ If you attack the affects of time without grace and mercy you will be killing the experiences that have made your church what it is!
 - ☛ “Kairos” the occasion, opportunity, or season of time.
 - ✓ Your church has been affected by the spiritual seasons and opportunities – those recognized and those not – and this time has affected the folks!
 - ☛ The recognition of missed kairos time in your church should be handled with great care! No one truly enjoys the painfully evident being recognized by the “knight in shining armor.”
 - ☛ Your focus on the kairos time of the past seems to guarantee your missing the kairos time of today!
 - Focusing on time. An honest discussion concerning the time your church is in will help. (A professional football player needs 12 seconds of superior focus 60 times a game to excel.)
 - ☛ The chronos time that we all face should make us more productive by causing decisions to be made in full view of the time available. Being aware that time continues to move and realistic about what should be accomplished in the time available will keep you from “running out of time.”
 - ☛ The kairos time represents strategic opportunities. There will be a multitude of opportunities, being prepared through conversations and planning helps.