

Beginning Church Leadership – Three Vital Questions

There are many requirements for someone called by God to serve as a leader in the church. Among them would be integrity, commitment, wisdom, love, grace, and many others. We won't be looking at these requirements in this lesson.

Instead, consider what should motivate you to embrace your opportunity for ministry with this progression of expectations.

Opportunity leads to: Success → Significance → Satisfaction.

The key to this progression is found in three vital questions every Christian (and especially Christian leaders) must ask of God.

Let's begin with the first two of these three questions.

- In Acts, Chapter 8, Saul of Tarsus was happily going about his business persecuting Christians, among them Steven.
- In Acts 9, Saul was on his way to Damascus, to imprison and kill more Christians. On that Road He hit a divine wall of light.

ACTS 9:1-6

Saul asked Jesus two questions. We need to ask them every day!

Verse 5: "Who are you Lord?"

Verse 6: "Lord, what do you want me to do?"

There is eternal significance in these two questions. How often have you asked them? They should be asked every day!

Saul didn't realize it at the time, but he could have asked a third, perhaps important question. He could have asked,

"LORD, WHO DO YOU WANT ME TO BECOME?"

God knows that when we become who He wants us to become, we will do what He wants us to do.

It's who you will become that will make the difference in what you will do to serve God... in how you will minister to His people... and how you navigate your life as a Christian.

Leaders are "becomers" - becoming more like Jesus every day. (Keep asking the first two questions and you will desire to ask the third question.)

What will be the determining factor in who you will become?

“Becoming” is, above all, a result of faithful commitment. You become the picture of integrity, righteousness and holiness.

To become all God wants you to become, you must shut the door on past failures, behaviors and thinking! Don’t look back. Don’t even consider going back. **PHILIPPIANS 3:12-14**

- You are now a person of no compromise.
- You are now a champion for Jesus. Think like it. Act like it!
- It’s a heart process! Refuse to leave your heart locked in the world’s ways. Choose Jesus. **1 CORINTHIANS 11:1**

When you chose Jesus, you chose a life “in Christ.”

- How much of the new life “in Christ” will you choose?
- How much of Christ will you choose?
- Leaders choose all of Christ they can get!

2 CORINTHIANS 5:9

There’s an Old Testament narrative that reminds us of our newfound New Testament opportunities... to be well pleasing to our Lord and Savior. It’s **DANIEL 1:8**. Daniel was a committed life-long “becomer.” He “purposed in his heart” to live in ways that fully pleased God... at whatever the cost.”

In or out of the Lion’s den, Daniel was uncompromising in his commitment to integrity and holiness. It brought him incredible opportunity, leading to success; leading to significance, leading to his personal, lifelong satisfaction.

Circumstances never affected Daniel’s commitment to God, nor should they affect yours! Daniel was consistently a person of no compromise! He always did the right thing! We are to try our best to do the right thing, regardless of what we think will be the outcomes. It’s never wrong to do what’s right. Doing what’s right might even take you into your personal “lion’s den”. It’s no fun in the lion’s den, but you can be sure God will shut the lion’s mouth.

So... who are you? ...And who will you become?

Your answer will determine your opportunities. More importantly, it will determine whether you reach your potential in Christ... whether you become all God has desired and designed you to be!

You will find that there's no greater joy or reward than seeing what's happening in the people you lead, because you gave them the best of yourself... even when it cost you something.

There's one more thing to consider. It has been key to my success (Dr. Bob) as a missionary pastor, church planter, mentor, Bible school educator and writer... I learned it from a particular failure in the Apostle Peter's life. **LUKE 22:47-54**

"But Peter followed Jesus AT A DISTANCE."

Peter's reaction to Jesus's arrest teaches us this great truth. If you want to fulfill the will of God, these two principles will help you:

- Be so close to Jesus that there's no distance, no darkness, no coldness between you and Him.
- Let your love for Him draw you to the altar of committed personal, sacrificial service. Imitate His love as you minister to others. Never allow any room for a "plan B."

Conclusion

Draw closer to Jesus every day. Become more like Him.

Let your life and service for Him give Him glory!

It was years later, long after Paul left behind the old Saul of Tarsus blinded in the dust, on the road to Damascus, he wrote this to the Colossian church: **COLOSSIANS 1:9-10**

Paul's prayer for the Colossians is no different than yours should be for those you lead and those who lead you. Spend time in Colossians 1:9-10. It could change your life, and those you pray for. Always remember this:

Embrace Your Opportunities. They will take you to success, then to significance, and finally to lifelong satisfaction.

Opportunity leads to: Success → Significance → Satisfaction