

Leaders: Committed, Connected, Cohesive

By Bob Young

In the previous article, we observed the positions from which effective leaders exercise leadership: above the fray, among the flock, alongside the followers. In this article, we note three essential characteristics of church leaders.

First, leaders are examples of “heart” or commitment. Few leaders will have superior skills in every area of an organization. In the church, not every leader will be an excellent evangelist or soul-winner. Some leaders will be better teachers than others; some leaders may have limited teaching skills. But regardless of a leader’s skills, the leader **MUST** set an example in commitment to the cause or the organization. The leader must believe in what the organization is doing and must demonstrate that by life, comments, example, and resource allocation. The leader models what it means to be committed to the organization. In the church, the leaders’ families also model such commitment. The leader not only models commitment, the leader knows how to mentor others to develop heart and commitment.

Second, leaders use their specific skills for the good of and to advance the organization. Leaders are available; they are on-call. As such leaders are connected with those they lead. Leaders for specific areas of the work should be chosen based on their skills or spiritual gifts. Choose a teacher to teach; choose a handyman to care for physical plant. Choose a shepherd to oversee the flock. The body can function as God intends only when each part of the body functions effectively and efficiently.

Third, leaders must be team players. A few organizations have a single leader who provides all or almost all of the leadership, but most organizations depend upon numerous leaders, each functioning in specific areas. In the church, the work of ministry is done by teams more than by individuals. As a team player, a leader must be able to balance individual understandings and preferences with the good of the group. The leadership as a team establishes purpose and direction. A leader who is a team player hangs in there and continues to work even when the organization is using methods he or she would not have chosen. The team functions in diversity and unity simultaneously. This is possible because the leadership team is cohesive.

May God give us leaders who can show us the way in commitment, connections, and cohesiveness.