

## The Five Biggest Leadership Mistakes

Leadership is a blend of natural and spiritual gifts, and the Christian leader leads primarily from who they are, not what they do. Satan loves to pick off Christian leaders, and so by building on biblical examples and experience we will examine the five biggest things the Christian leader can get wrong.

Nola Leach served as the former Chief Executive of CARE (Christian Action Research & Education), one of Europe's leading Christian charities, which provides resources and helps bring Christian insight and experience to matters of public policy and practical caring initiatives. CARE undertakes a variety of social caring and educational programmes and research and is represented in the UK Parliaments and Assemblies. As the Head of the Public Affairs team, Nola led campaigns on topics such as human trafficking, Internet pornography, and the value of human life from its beginning to natural end. She oversaw the publication of *Living Free*, a sequel to the CARE book *Searching for Intimacy* – a resource designed to help those trapped in the net of Internet pornography. She has a passion for developing Christian leaders and heads up CARE's unique Leadership Programme. She is increasingly in demand as both a writer and a public speaker, has penned numerous articles, and regularly appears in the media.

### 1. Forgetting Our Calling

A. Follower of Christ, called by Him.

- i. Exodus 13:21; Exodus 23:23; Matthew 4:19; John 15:16

B. Knowing who you are.

### 2. Failing to “Guard Our Hearts”

A. How alive are we? Revelation 3:1-6.

- i. Character.
- ii. Union with God as image bearers of Him.
- iii. Seek God's face: Exodus 33; Psalm 27:8.

iv. The importance of worship.

### 3. Failing to Set Boundaries

A. Jesus' example: Mark 1:35; Matthew 14:13; Matthew 14:23; John 7:10.

B. Self-reflection: we are not indispensable.

C. Leaders are relational.

i. Moses, Jethro and Peer Leaders; Aaron and Hur; Deborah and Esther; Paul; Priscilla and Aquilla; Luke, etc.

ii. Jesus with the 72, and the 12.

D. The importance of family.

i. Family matters to God: Noah *and* family; Rahab *and* family; The Philippian jailer *and* family.

ii. The plan for salvation: Elizabeth is Mary's cousin.

iii. God described as "Our Father".

iv. Jesus instructs us to minister to "our families".

### 4. Believing the Myth

- A. “It all depends on us”.
- B. A need for approval.
- C. Develop a support structure.

## **5. Accepting Second Best**

- A. We have a high calling.
- B. A need for tough decisions: leaders cannot be everyone’s friend.
- C. Endurance: Hebrews 10:32-39; 1 Kings 18-19; Psalm 103; Matthew 13.

## **6. Conclusion**

- A. Fall in love with Christ again: Psalm 119.
- B. Spiritual and natural gifts.
- C. Be wise.

### **Additional Reading:**

- Marcus Buckingham and Donald O. Clifton, *Now, Discover Your Strengths*. Jan 2001 ISBN 0743201140
- Julian Hardyman, *Jesus, Lover of My Soul*. Nov 2020 ISBN: 9781789741735