

The Paradigm and Purpose of Leadership

It is all too easy for Christians to take their model of leadership from the secular world. Christian leaders feel they need to be a Corporate CEO, Charismatic Figurehead or Pioneering Entrepreneur. In some cases these leadership models result in abusive practices. Instead we need to adopt a Christlike model of servant-leadership that serves the purpose of advancing Christ's kingdom. This session will contrast the self-sacrificial leadership paradigm of Jesus with the self-serving leadership of the Pharisees and draw practical lessons for Christian leaders today.

John Stevens is the National Director of the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches, a family of over 500 Bible-centred churches in the UK, a position that he has held since 2010. Prior to this, he was one of the founding pastors of City Evangelical Church Birmingham, which was planted in the centre of the UK's 2nd largest city in 1999. He was instrumental in starting the Midlands Gospel Partnership, was the course Director of the Midlands Ministry Training Course and is a visiting lecturer at Oak Hill Theological College. John is also one of the pastors of Christchurch Market Harborough, a church he helped to plant when he took up his current role. He was converted whilst studying law at Cambridge University, and after taking a post-graduate degree at the University of Oxford worked for 16 years as a University Lecturer, ending his career as Deputy Head of the Law School at the University of Birmingham. John is married to Ursula and they have four children aged between 12 and 7. He blogs at www.john-stevens.com on theology, church life and ministry, culture, and politics.

1. The Purpose of Leadership

To bring glory to Jesus by using God-given power and authority to make disciples who submit to him as Lord, obey his teaching and enter into his kingdom

To serve as faithful under shepherds of the chief shepherd

Encouraging, exhorting, teaching, training, rebuking, correcting, disciplining

2. The discrediting of leadership

Bill Hybels
Ravi Zacharias
Mark Driscoll
James MacDonald
John Smyth
Jonathan Fletcher
Steve Timmis

3. The pattern for leadership

Mark 10v35-45

Philippians 2v9-11

1 Peter 5v1-5

1 Timothy 3v1-9

4. The abuse of leadership

The Pharisees

Treat their traditions/interpretations as law – Mark 7

Impose burdens on people but do not lift a finger to help

Love places of honour

Become performers

Exercise powerful relational discipline

Lack compassion and mercy

Convinced of their superiority

=desire for status and security

4. Avoid becoming an Abusive Leader

Guard your heart

Be a disciple/sheep who follows Jesus

Take up your cross daily

Mortify the desires of the flesh

Seek effective accountability to others

Further Reading:

Marcus Honeysett, *Powerful Leaders: When Church Leadership Goes Wrong and How to Prevent It*

Scott McKnight & Laura Barringer, *A Church Called Tov: Forming a Goodness Culture That Resists Abuses of Power and Promotes Healing*