

The Vision of Christian Leadership

Much of leadership material, whilst insightful, is not necessarily Christian. What does it mean to be a Christian leader in a Christian organisation, building effective and Christ-honouring institutions without compromising on integrity? Explore some of the personal joys, challenges and costs in this kind of leadership.

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 17 and 12. He blogs at www.john-stevens.com on theology, church life and ministry, culture and politics.

1. My Experience of Leadership

- a. Secular leadership – Deputy Head of Law Faculty, University of Birmingham
- b. Church Leadership – Founding Pastor, City Church Birmingham and Christchurch Market Harborough
- c. Organisational Leadership – National Director, FIEC

2. The Importance of Leadership in the Bible

- a. God as King/Father/Husband/Shepherd/Warrior/Guide
- b. Adam (Husband & Father & King)
- c. Patriarchs
- d. Princes (Moses and Joshua)
- e. Judges
- f. Kings
- g. Jesus
- h. Apostles
- i. Elders (Pastor-Teacher/Overseer-Bishops)

3. Biblical Models of Leadership

- a. Shepherds – feeding, protecting, caring, breeding
- b. Stewards – managing, multiplying
- c. Warriors – conquering, defending

4. Biblical Metaphors of Leadership

- a. Journeys – Getting God’s people to where they need to be
- b. Battles – Defending God’s people against their enemies and gaining their inheritance
- c. Buildings – Organising God’s people to construct the Temple of God

5. What Does Leadership Involve?

- a. Vision setting and casting
- b. Resource Allocation – People, Money, Fundraising
- c. Team Building – Recruitment, Support, Replacement, Cohesion
- d. Management/Supervision – Monitoring, Appraisal
- e. Modelling – Setting an Example
- f. Accountability – To Church (members or denomination) or Board

6. The Distinctives of Christian Leadership - What, How, Why

- a. The goal of Christian leadership – God’s glory through his people
- b. The humility of Christian leadership – Leadership under God
 - 1. Deuteronomy 17v18-20
 - 2. 1 Peter 5v4
- c. The character of Christian leadership – Servant Leadership
 - 1. Deuteronomy 17v14-19
 - 2. Matthew 20v20-28
 - 3. John 13v1-17
 - 4. Philippians 2v1-11
- d. The methods of Christian leadership – Faithful Submission, Suffering, and Example

1. David – 1 Samuel 24& 26
2. Jesus – Luke 22v47-53
3. Paul – 1 Corinthians 2v1-5 & 11v1
4. Peter – 1 Peter 5v3

7. Essential Qualities for Christian Leadership

- a. 1 Timothy 3v1-13; Acts 6v3; 1 Samuel 13v14
- b. Conversion
- c. Conviction (knowing and understanding the gospel)
- d. Christlikeness
- e. Character
- f. Competence

8. Growing as a Christian Leader

- a. Personal Devotional Life – Prayer & Bible Study
- b. Theological Acumen
- c. Church Membership
- d. Discipleship and Accountability
- e. Growing in Leadership Competence
 1. 2 Timothy 3v16
 2. Common grace wisdom

9. Common Difficulties for Leaders (and how I have experienced them!)

- a. Disagreement
- b. Difficult People
- c. Dissatisfaction
- d. Division
- e. Burnout

10. Specific Temptations for Leaders

- a. Power
- b. Money
- c. Sex
- d. Identity
- e. Loneliness and Exposure

Suggested Readings:

Gordon T Smith, *Institutional Intelligence: How to Build an Effective Organization*

Craig Hamilton, *Wisdom in Leadership*

Peter Scazzero, *Emotionally Healthy Leader*

Dave Kraft, *Leaders Who Last*