

Power Questions in Leadership

The question of power is one of the greatest challenges of leadership. What does it mean to be up in a high position? What does it mean to lead from there? How do position and power influence our character? Why is leadership so challenging and how can we prepare for it? The workshop will focus on understanding these questions and on the character of the leader that is pleasing to God.

Emőke Tapolyai is a clinical pastoral counsellor and an executive coach. She received her MA in clinical pastoral counselling from Ashland Theological Seminary, a division of Ashland University (Ashland, Ohio, USA). She is a member of the American Association of Christian Counsellors (AACC), the Hungarian Association of Sexologists, and the Professional Association of Coaches.

- I. How is the question of power relevant to our everyday lives?
Mt. 4:8-11.
Psalm 82:2-4, 6-7.

- II. Power and the Self

- a. core longings

- 1. To find fulfillment and meaning in life
 - 2. Secure and safe environment
 - 3. A sense of worth
 - 4. A desire to be unique and special
 - 5. To be important
 - 6. To be loved and love
 - 7. To be enjoyed and enjoy
 - 8. Fellowship with God

- b. cycle of our woundedness:

- Wounds

- Interpretation/lesson learnt=lies

- Painkillers

- Disfunctions

- Addictions/Idols

- c. Power as a form of painkilling

- III. Broken Cycle of woundedness:

- Wounds

- Interpretation/lesson learnt=lies

- Christ healing truth

- Service for the glory of the Healer

- IV. Pleasing people/fear of people → leads to temptation
Pleasing God/fearing God → beginning of wisdom

- V. Levels of leadership (John C. Maxwell):

1. People follow because they have to – position based.
2. People follow because they want to – natural leader.
3. People follow because of what you have done for the organisation.
4. People follow because of what you have done for them personally.
5. **People follow because of who you are and what you represent.**

- VI. Why would people want to follow us? More than personality, character!
Character training against power temptation:

a. **Confidence:**

Eph.6:10-13.

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.”

b. **Humbled heart:**

Phil. 2:3-8.

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death -even death on a cross!”

John 3:27

“A person can receive only what is given them from heaven.”

c. Forgiveness:

Eph.4:32.

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

d. Servanthood:

Mt 23:11-12.

“The greatest among you will be your servant. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Mark 10:45.

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”