EMBRACING A BIBLICAL LEADERSHIP MODEL WITHIN THE ACADEMY

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LEADERSHIP STUDIES

RESEARCH PROJECT: How effective was your education in preparing you for ministry?
• Graduates
• Employers

LEADERSHIP STUDIES

PRIMARY FINDINGS
• Strengths
• Weaknesses/Gaps
Jesus called them over and said to them, “You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those in high positions act as tyrants over them. But it is not so among you. On the contrary, whoever wants to become great among you will be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you will be a slave to all. 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.”

[Mark 10:42-44, emphasis added]
TERMINOLOGY

SECULAR
Hebrew:
nagid (man at the top)
ro’ah (head)
Greek:
arche (lit. “one above”)
bodos (guide, leader of way)

SCRIPTURAL
Hebrew:
ebed (servant)
ra’ah (shepherd)
Greek:
doulos, huperetes, oikonomos (servant)
poimien, poimano (shepherd)

“appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have”
(I Sam. 8:5) [emphasis added]

BIBLICAL LEADERSHIP METAPHORS

• STEWARD
• SHEPHERD
• SERVANT

• STEWARD = SERVANT OF THE LORD
  • ACCOUNTABLE TO …
  • RESPONSIBLE FOR …
BIBLICAL LEADERSHIP METAPHORS

• STEWARD
  • NOT: entitled to privileges of an office for your own benefit
  • RATHER: entrusted with performing an obligation for your master’s benefit


CONTRAST

SECULAR
Authority over
Accountability to
• State
• Stakeholders

SPIRITUAL
Authority under
Accountability to
• God
• Stakeholders
• State

BIBLICAL LEADERSHIP METAPHORS

• STEWARD

• SERVANT

• SHEPHERD

YOU ARE NOT TO BE CALLED INSTRUCTORS EITHER, BECAUSE YOU HAVE ONE INSTRUCTOR, THE MESSIAH. THE GREATEST AMONG YOU WILL BE YOUR SERVANT. (MATTHEW 23:10-11) [EMPHASIS ADDED]
TERMINOLOGY

SECULAR

HEBREW:
NAGID (MAN AT THE TOP)
RO'YOSH (HEAD)

GREEK:
ARCHE (LIT. “ONE ABOVE”)
HODEGOS (GUIDE, LEADER OF WAY)

BIBLICAL LEADERSHIP METAPHORS

• MODEL = CHRIST
  • ISAIAH 42: THIS IS MY SERVANT
  • ISAIAH 53: MY RIGHTEOUS SERVANT WILL JUSTIFY MANY, AND HE WILL CARRY THEIR INIQUITIES
  • PHILIPPIANS 2: ASSUMING THE FORM OF A SERVANT … HE HUMBLED HIMSELF

BIBLICAL LEADERSHIP METAPHORS

- **Shepherd** (C.F., Psalm 23)
- **Supply**
- **Satisfaction**
- **Safety**
- **Security**

*Only goodness and faithful love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord as long as I live.*

“**WOE TO THE SHEPHERDS** who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!” This is the Lord’s declaration. “Therefore, this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says about the shepherds who tend my people: You have scattered my flock, banished them, and have not attended to them. I am about to attend to you because of your evil acts”—this is the Lord’s declaration. (Jeremiah 23:1-2)

“**Son of Man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel.** Prophesy, and say to them, ‘This is what the Lord God says to the shepherds: **WOE TO THE SHEPHERDS OF ISRAEL,** who have been feeding themselves! Shouldn’t the shepherds feed their flock? … Instead, you have ruled them with violence and cruelty.” (Ezekiel 34:2-4)

**My anger is kindled against the shepherds.** (Zechariah 10:3)
I AM THE **GOOD SHEPHERD**. THE GOOD SHEPHERD LAYS DOWN HIS LIFE FOR THE SHEEP.

*John 10:11, CSB*

**WOE TO YOU, SCRIBES AND PHARISEES, HYPOCRITES!** You shut the door of the kingdom of heaven in people’s faces. For you don’t go in, and you don’t allow those entering to go in.

(Matthew 23:13)

WHEN THEY HAD EATEN BREAKFAST, JESUS ASKED SIMON PETER, “SIMON, SON OF JOHN, DO YOU LOVE ME MORE THAN THESE?” “Yes, Lord,” he said to him, “you know that I love you.” “Feed my lambs,” he told him. A second time he asked him, “SIMON, SON OF JOHN, DO YOU LOVE ME?” “Yes, Lord,” he said to him, “you know that I love you.” “**SHEPHERD MY SHEEP,**” he told him. He asked him the third time, “SIMON, SON OF JOHN, DO YOU LOVE ME?” Peter was grieved that he asked him the third time, “do you love me?” He said, “**Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.**” “**Feed my sheep,**” Jesus said.

*John 21:15-17*

**SHEPHERD GOD’S FLOCK AMONG YOU, [MOTIVATIONS]** not overseeing out of compulsion but willingly, as God would have you; not out of greed for money but eagerly; [MANNER] not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.

*1 Peter 5:2-3*
BIBLICAL LEADERSHIP METAPHORS

- **STEWARD**
  - Accountable for...
  - Responsible for...

- **SERVANT**
  - Eschew status symbols
  - Humble disposition

- **SHEPHERD**
  - Nourish
  - Nurture

- **INCARNATIONAL**
- **RELATIONAL**
- **DEVELOPMENTAL**
- **DIRECTIONAL**
- **ECOLOGICAL**
- **SITUATIONAL**
- **DOXOLOGICAL**


• **INCARNATIONAL** – Influence flows from being before doing.


• **RELATIONAL** – Leadership is inescapably relational.

• **DEVELOPMENTAL** – LEADERS PRAYERFULLY AND WISELY SELECT, DYNAMICALLY PROTECT, ACTIVELY NOURISH AND FRUITFULLY NURTURE PEOPLE FOLLOWERS AND FELLOW LEADERS.


• **DIRECTIONAL** – LEADERS FOSTER PROCESSES TO ASCERTAIN MISSION AND ARTICULATE VISION AND BY ALIGNING PEOPLE AND PLANS ACCORDINGLY.


• **ECOLOGICAL** – LEADERS LEAD BY EXERCISING ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY AND SKILL: NURTURING A COMMUNITY IDENTITY, ENGENDERING AND ESPOUSING SHARED VALUES, AND CULTIVATING A WHOLESOME ORGANIZATIONAL CLIMATE.


• **SITUATIONAL** – LEADERSHIP WORKS BEST WHEN THERE IS AN OPTIMAL FIT BETWEEN THE LEADER AND THE SITUATION. THE MOST EFFECTIVE LEADERS ARE THE MOST ADAPTABLE LEADERS.

• **DOXOLOGICAL** – The hallmark of truly biblical leadership is that it moves people toward God and moves them into step with God.


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**IMPLICIT**

... the implicit curriculum always overpowers the explicit curriculum. Irrespective of lessons taught in the classroom, students will follow the example of their teachers rather than their words. This sobering reality underlines the urgency of whole-campus commitment to education for transformation of life and ministry. In a school’s offices, classrooms, and kitchen, leadership matters.


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**INVENTORY**

Agree/Disagree:

- **Our institution’s most prominent leaders consistently model biblical leadership.**
Agree/Disagree:
- Our institutional culture is marked by leader transparency and accountability.

Agree/Disagree:
- One or more of our institution’s leaders has been guilty of serious failure that has been glossed over or actively covered up.

Agree/Disagree:
- Our institutional structures and processes are congruent with biblical leadership principles.

Agree/Disagree:
- Our institution’s most prominent leaders effectively model teamwork.
INVENTORY

Agree/Disagree:
• Our institution’s most prominent leaders consistently model biblical patterns of conflict resolution.