

Authority

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I. Introduction.

- A. The ministry is both a spiritual movement and an organization—they should not be mixed nor divided. Both have to be done.
- B. There is no formula to working with people in their unique places in life—principles need to be applied to reach people where they are.
- C. One of the confusing things in the spiritual movement is that the product is the same as the process - people are worked with and developed.

II. Spiritual leadership.

- A. Spiritual leadership is often seen outside of the bounds of traditional structures in Scripture. For example, more than the Eleven and Paul are classified as apostles in the Scriptures.
- B. Spiritual leadership does not always come from the top down—it can be independent of structures.
- C. How do we get spiritual followers? There has to be an internal voluntary response to what the follower sees in the leader. (Exodus 33, Isaiah 43, 2 Corinthians 8:5)

III. Relationship between spiritual leaders and followers.

- A. One must not change the rules on whom a follower is following. Attitude determine the kind of relationships that a leader is to have with a follower. (Acts 6)
- B. Communication is essential between the leader and the follower concerning authority.
- C. Spiritual leadership is complex—sometimes the relationship can change and there can be a variety of leaders in a follower's life.
- D. There is difficulty in leadership in the ministry because followers have built in expectations.
- E. A new spiritual leader needs to win his follower constantly, not taking them for granted.
- C. There will be many people lost, but it may not be the spiritual leader's fault. One needs to practice Romans 14 in that he is not too quick to judge a circumstance.

IV. Illustrative principles of decisions in Acts 15.

- A. Involve the involved or their representatives.
- B. It is important to know the philosophy of one's ministry so that it can be transferred to another culture.

C. Policies should be kept few internationally and determined by the character of them and the depth of their involvement in them locally.

D. Having agreed on objectives, get to work.

E. The process is as important as the decision carried out in a group activity. The people carrying the decision out should be involved. The extent of the process should be determined by the extent of the decision. The final decision should be held by the one accountable—the team leader. (James 3:17-18, Colossians 3:15)

F. Team decision making gives a lot of stability and trains the people who will replace the present leaders.

V. Conclusion.

Application questions.

1. Why do you think it is important for a ministry to be viewed both organizationally and as a spiritual movement?

2. What principles in leadership stood out to you? Why is it important to involve all parties involved in leadership decisions?

3. What leadership contexts do you find yourself in? What two principles can you apply from this discussion to enhance your effectiveness in those contexts? Be specific.
