



## HCC Leadership Development Class- Week 2

October 29, 2020

### I. What is Christian Leadership for the Church

- *If discipleship is taking responsibility for your own relationship with Christ, leadership in the church is coming alongside others and taking appropriate responsibility for theirs.*  
Leaders take responsibility for others. Sometimes it's more organic- when convenient or when it fits...but sometimes we need clearly defined roles for formal leaders- you can count on me even when it's not convenient and it isn't a good fit.  
"Every believer is called to help someone grow into maturity- and such is the core calling of a leader." -Allender
- *Leaders in the church still have a leader...Jesus leads his church and those who lead it.*  
Eph. 1:22-23  
Heb. 12:2  
1 Peter 2:25  
\*1 Peter 5:1-4
- *Leaders in the church grow in Christ and help others grow in Christ.*  
The call to leadership is a call to Christian maturity, it is not simply a call to "do" ministry...it is a call to "be," a call to sanctification for the sake of God's people.

*The aim of a leader's activity is not the growth of the organization. It's not even meeting needs or doing good. The purpose of limping leadership is the maturing of character.* -Allender, The Purpose of Limping Leadership

How do we GROW?

- 1) We understand, believe, and appropriate the gospel  
*I am a character in God's story, the story of the Gospel is my story: already/ not yet, sinner: more sinful than I dare to think/ saint: more loved in Christ than I dare to dream.* -Allender
  - 2) We pursue the "means of grace"
  - 3) We grow in "gratitude and awe"- Allender
- *Leaders in the church are servants.*  
Matthew 16:24-25  
Mark 10:32-45
  - *Leaders in the church are out front.*  
Mark 10:32  
1 Cor. 11:1  
1 Tim. 4:12  
Hebrews 13:7
  - *Leaders in the church count the cost.*  
Mark 10:38

*Who would want to be a leader? There 6 "costs" to count: crisis, complexity, betrayal, loneliness, weariness, and glory.*  
-Allender

- *Leaders in the church are emotionally healthy.*
  - What is the problem?  
Christian spirituality, without an integration of emotional health, can be deadly- to yourself, your relationship with God, and the people around you.
  - What is missing?  
The joining of emotional health and contemplative spirituality.
  - What is emotional health?  
Horizontal- dealing with our relationships (with God, others, and yourself)
    - Naming, recognizing, and managing our own feelings
    - Identifying with and having active compassion for others
    - Initiating and maintaining close and meaningful relationships
    - Breaking free from self-destructive patterns
    - Being aware of how our past impacts our present
    - Developing the capacity to express our thoughts and feelings clearly
    - Respecting and loving others without having to change them
    - Asking for what we need, want, or prefer clearly, directly, and respectfully
    - Accurately self-assessing our strengths, limits, and weaknesses and freely sharing them with others
    - Learning the capacity to resolve conflict maturely and negotiate solutions that consider the perspective of others
    - Integrating our spirituality with our sexuality in a healthy way
    - Grieving well
  - What is contemplative spirituality?  
Vertical- dealing with God (contemplation is paying attention to the things of God)
    - Slowing down to “be with God”
    - Awakening and surrendering to God’s love in any and every situation
    - Positioning ourselves to hear God and remember his presence in all we do
    - Communing with God, allowing him to fully indwell the depth of our being
    - Practicing silence, solitude, and a life of unceasing prayer
    - Resting attentively in the presence of God
    - Understanding our earthly life as a journey of transformation toward ever-increasing union with God
    - Finding the true essence of who we are in God
    - Developing a balanced, harmonious rhythm of life that enables us to be aware of the sacred in all of life
    - Adapting historic practices of spirituality that are applicable today
    - Allowing our Christian lives to be shaped by the rhythms of the Christian calendar rather than the culture
    - Living in committed community that passionately loves Jesus above all else.

## II. Week 2- Reading List:

- “The Great Sin”- Chapter 8 of *Mere Christianity* by C.S.Lewis
- “A Grammar of Disciplines” Chapter 5 from *Dwell-* by Barry D. Jones
- Listen to “People in My Town” music project- by Alan Levi  
As you listen, think through the following questions:
  1. What is your overall impression of this idea – not so much the musical quality – but the concept, the relational connectivity, the time that went into it, etc.
  2. What kind of character traits would you suspect Allen Levi has that would move him to want to do this?
  3. What is “Christ-like” about what you heard and why?
  4. What does this project say about racial and socio-economic differences between those who may be your neighbors?
  5. What does this project say about being an intentional person?
  6. How would you respond to the following: “Honesty + Curiosity = Intimacy” And how do you hear that in what you listened to?