

## LEADERSHIP LESSONS FOR CHURCHES

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“Which church in America is doing the most cutting-edge ministry?” “Whom do you consider to be a model church?” These are questions I’m asked consistently as I consult with some of the largest churches in the US and other countries. The answer to the above question is “Depends...”. It *depends* on how the issues I’ve outlined for you below are addressed.

1. The mission comes first. The mission of any ministry is changed lives. Have other “ministry-related” activities overtaken our main mission?
2. The function of leadership is to make the church more church-like, not to make the church more business-like. Does everything about us exude excellence?
3. An organization begins to die the day it begins to run for the benefit of the insiders and not for the benefit of the outsiders. Is our church experience for those already in the “club” or for those who need to be brought into the house?
4. Know the value to planned abandonment ... you must decide what *not* to do. No church can do everything thing with excellence—no church—dilution of resources (leaders, facilities, finances etc.) will always lead to mediocrity.
5. Know the value of foresight ... you can’t predict the future, but you must assess the futurity of present events. How does today tie into tomorrow and beyond?
6. Focus on opportunities, not problems. Most organizations assign their best resources to their problems, not their opportunities. Build on your strengths not your weaknesses.
7. Leadership is a social function and has mostly to do with people, not techniques and procedures. Are people, not programs, facilities or other entities the most important asset in our church? It’s all about the people.
8. People decisions, not organizational charts are the ultimate control mechanism of an organization. That’s where people look to find out what values you really hold.
9. All work is work for a team. No individual has the temperament and skills to do every job. The purpose of a team is to make strengths productive and weaknesses irrelevant. How are we discovering, developing and deploying a team?
10. The three most important questions for any church are:
  - A. What is our mission? Answers *what*.
  - B. Who is coming? Answers *who*.
  - C. What do attendees consider value? Answers *why*.

This increases relevancy. Maximizes the now. Touches at the point of need like a laser.

Unless the above questions are answered *honestly* from an “*other-centered-perspective*” we’ll be hampered in maximizing our effectiveness.