

BROUGHT TO YOU BY CHRISTIAN SURFERS INTERNATIONAL



THE LEADERSHIP LINEUP

UNCHANGING LEADERSHIP PRINCIPLES TO KEEP YOU AND THE MINISTRY YOU LEAD IN PEAK POSITION

Reading the lineup is key to maximizing one's surfing opportunity. Having solid objects on land to line up and hold one's position is essential in light of the shifting nature of the ocean. Similarly, leaders within Christian Surfers need solid, unchanging principles to hold them in position so they can maximize their ministry opportunities. The Leadership Lineup features unchanging leadership principles to keep you, and the ministry you lead, in peak position.

LINEUP #1: CORE VALUES

Extract from Christian Surfers Foundations Training

Unit 1 "Core Values"
from the Trainers Notes

YOU'RE JUST A BUNCH OF WANNABE SURFERS

It started just as a trickle. Some surfers from a local youth group started attending your CS meeting, then more. The handful of unsaved guys slowly stopped coming as the group become more and more like a church service. Much time is spent dealing with the personal issues of those young Christians so Bible studies deepen, friendships tighten, community contact wanes. They started bringing their church friends, most of whom didn't ever really surf. Wearing CS clothing has become the cool Christian thing to do. Last week in the surf, one of the CS leaders was told by a group of locals that their CS group was just a bunch of wannabe surfers. Some of those locals used to attend CS meetings...not anymore. This leader is perplexed as he believes in ministering to whoever God brings his way and is faithful with the Bible, yet he is disturbed by the comments and feels they have lost something. Something is wrong, yet he is unable to get his bearings in the midst of this.

CORE VALUES: THE INNER COMPASS

When difficulties come, perhaps the most helpful tool the leader has is to address the situation by their core values. Core values are common principles and practices shared by a group that act as a compass by which they can measure their direction and whether there has been any deviation from it.

If a vision statement contains WHY we exist, and a mission statement WHAT we do, then one's core values are about HOW we go about this as a group. How we go about things is VERY important. The process speaks more loudly than the outcome. How often have you seen some CS group creating surfing chaos in the lineup, then want to share the 'good news about Jesus' to their fellow surfer? Why aren't they interested? Why should they be? Core values define this.

"A group does not define its core values, the core values define the group."

The Christian Surfers Core Values are Surfing, Evangelising, Integrating, Partnering, Serving, Empowering, Transforming, International. These values are a snapshot of what we are really on about...and conversely what we are not on about. 'The good is always the enemy of the best' is a neat saying. It is somewhat easy to choose between something bad and good, but much more difficult to discern between many good things that can't all be done. Good leaders ask 'why', whilst the workers ask 'what'. One needs to know their calling to rightly discern. Core values do that. They are the inner compass for the outward expression of ministry.

HOW WOULD JESUS DO?

Consider Jesus sending out the 12 in Matthew chapter 10. They have clear core values given to them, values that had been expressed by Jesus well before this time, values that define their mission.

- The priority of preaching to the Israelites, "Go to the lost sheep of Israel" vs 5,
- Generosity to all in need, "Give as freely as you received" vs 8,
- Dependency upon God and those he stirs, "Take nothing with you" vs 9-14,
- Suffering and persecution, "I am sending you out as sheep among wolves" vs 15-39,
- Rewards, "Anyone who welcomes you, welcomes me" vs 40-42.

We see that Jesus himself lived out these very core values throughout the gospels and his followers caught them. Indeed something about core values is that they are more caught than taught. A group does not define its core values, the core values define the group. Consider Jesus modelling the same core values:

- Jesus moves on to keep preaching the gospel to the Jews, Mark 1:35-38, 7:24-29,
- Jesus gives to all who come and ask him, Matthew 4:23-25, 9,
- Jesus lives dependency upon God, Matthew 8:20,
- Jesus suffers persecution, Matthew 12,
- Jesus recognizes God's reward (and judgement) according to the peoples response to himself, Matthew 11:20-23

These core values define who Jesus was, what he did and why he did. They also define what he did not do, for example, why did Jesus stop performing miracles? The glory of God was being distorted by the crowds of followers seeking a show of power and who would prevent his ongoing preaching ministry.

BACK TO YOUR CHRISTIAN SURFERS MINISTRY

Situation 1. A city CS group is on a camp at a remote country location. The groms (and leaders) have overcrowded a quiet local point break and are hassling locals and one another. CS Core Values are surfing (submitted to God), serving (the way we earn respect), and transforming (seeing the surfing culture changed for Godly good). HOW we surf must reflect this! Split the group to a couple of locations, give respect to the local crew, give attention rather than take it, encourage rather than compete, befriend rather than alienate. What else can you imagine?

Situation 2. A strong minded leader declares their CS group equally a local church and encourages others to cut ties with their 'old school churches' and follow him as their autocratic leader. CS Core Values are partnering (with the local church and others), empowering (seeing all members enabled to reach their leadership potential) and serving (servanthood leadership model). HOW we operate as a leadership team must reflect this! Confront this attitude and give opportunity to change. Build a team of equals, maintain good relationships with supportive churches, model a leadership style of humility and transparency. What else might you do here?

At the end of the day, keep the main things the main things and above everything else, your core values, shaped by God in the formation of your mission, are the main things you should not compromise. Methods may change, but values should not.

Further Reading:

Christian Surfers Foundations Training - Unit 1

[Courageous Leadership - Bill Hybels](#)

[Vioneering - Andy Stanley](#)

[21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership - John Maxwell](#)

This is a condensed version of a unit from the CS Foundations Training. You can have the outlines of both the Leaders Notes and Trainees Worksheets for this and other units by going to the affiliates password section of the CSI website: <http://www.christiansurfers.net/FilesLoqin.aspx>.

- 1.1 CS Fundamental: Vision, mission, core values, core strategies of CS
- 1.2 Leadership Issues: Character, style, stages, habit of Godly leaders.
- 1.3 Building partnerships with the local church and other ministries.
- 1.4 Developing and maintaining a leadership team, community and Kingdom culture.
- 1.5 Evangelism Content: Fundamentals and preparing a testimony.
- 1.6 Evangelism Process: Building relationships and recognizing stages of responsiveness.
- 1.7 CS Best Practices: Structure, systems, legal, finances requirements as per country.
- 1.8 The Surfing Culture: Trends, contextualization, values, and ways to effect culture.

Contact your national leader for password.

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