

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 #2: Integrity

### The Foundation of Leadership

by Andrew Carruthers

Hi fellow leaders, I would like us to look at what is the foundation of leadership.

What is a leader? Someone who is up front and capable? The person who speaks well? The person who is a great surfer and everyone looks up to?

Well, yes and no. The leader can be all of these things, but first the leader must be one very important thing...

Let's look at the books of Joel and Amos in regards to another great foundation. I remember as a small child getting a gold star for doing something well in school. The system of reward for achievement or appropriate behaviour is everywhere in all levels of society and all ages. If you act the right way or achieve the right things you get the assumed rewards. This is how things work mostly. Similarly, if you are good up front and a good surfer you should be the leader. Yet with God and His kingdom I see a very different rule applied. In Amos we see the Israelites performing the required actions to please God (or so they think) but God's response to them is far from glowing.

***Amos 5:21-24 "I hate, I despise your religious feasts; I cannot stand your assemblies. Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them. Though you bring choice fellowship offerings, I will have no regard for them. Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps. But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!"***

So here are the people of God approaching Him in what they assumed was the right manner; they would offer sacrifice, gather in assemblies and sing songs of worship etc (sounds familiar). Yet God rejects, even despises their actions. So what has gone wrong here? In verse 24 we see that God is seeking something else aside from the religious practice of being the people of God. Justice and righteousness are what He names. God is looking for character that reflects His own heart not actions that don't. He makes this very clear to Samuel the Prophet in 1 Samuel. Here we see the difference between the way God would choose a leader and the way man chooses a leader.

***1 Samuel 16:6 "When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed stands here before the LORD.' But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.'***

Man looks at the outward appearance but the Lord looks at the heart. This is true in all things and in every aspect of our lives. Men look at what we do, God looks at who we are and what we will become...

So the foundational truth here is that God is more interested in who we are than what we do...If you can get a

grasp on this you can see how God in His sovereignty is always behind the scenes using the circumstances of our lives to shape us to be more like His Son - the ultimate reflection of God's character. In regard to leadership God is looking for men and women with a heart after His heart, but what does that mean? He is looking for people who are motivated by bringing glory to God, rather than people who are motivated by bringing glory to themselves. But consider this also that we can be attempting to earn our way to God by working at being a good Christian, getting the gold stars for the good works along the way. Now faith without works is dead but works without faith is just works...

I have a friend who is a stone mason (hi Gus) and we spoke about this a while ago. When he looks at a nice lump of stone he can see the shape inside; like a master sculptor he sees past the exterior to the shape yet to be revealed, and then he chisels away to release the imprisoned sculpture. This is how God views us. Men look at the outward, but God looks at the heart. He sees past our failings and sin, past our hurts and fears, past our inadequacies and fumbling attempts to serve Him; and he sees Jesus within us. He uses the circumstances of our lives to chisel away the outer shell that isn't us anyway, each blow or stroke revealing more and more of the reflection of His kingdom hidden within us all.

Leadership is a calling; a drawing of our hearts to be more like Jesus. The man or woman of God is someone who is marked by this calling. Titus and Timothy are clear on the qualification of a leader, but the root of all these qualifications is character that reflects God's character.

When I speak at churches or conferences around the world inevitably someone will ask for prayer seeking God's will regarding what they should do...this job or that, this mission or that; and those choices are very important, but the more important thing overarching those decisions is this thought, 'Have I positioned myself with God in a place where He is shaping my character? Have I yielded my will to His will?' You see we can be soft to God in our outward practices but hard to Him in our hearts. This is why the sacrifices God had asked the Israelites to perform became such a stench to him in the days of Amos; hard hearts you see. They were going through the motions with God.

Consider this verse:

**Joel 2:13 "Rend your heart and not your garments."**

When the Israelites mourned a death or a situation that was hard and unbearable they would rend (tear) their clothing, sit in the dirt with ashes on their heads and wail. God wants us to rend our hearts; to be in deep mourning regarding the state of our souls, the inclination of our hearts and the desires of our minds, to consider whether or not we are reflecting the values of his kingdom. To tear open our hearts so that God can be at work on them. He isn't interested in us LOOKING holy and righteous; He is desiring of us to BE holy and righteous. This is the true path to leadership.

Are you going through the motions with God?

Do you look the goods but your heart is hard?

How did you become a leader - called or just fell into it?

How are you getting closer to God - by doing more things to please Him or by opening yourself up for his shaping?

Rend your hearts open yourself up to God. Tell Him it all - the good, the bad and the ugly...

**GOD IS MORE INTERESTED IN WHO WE ARE THAN WHAT WE DO!**

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/FilesLogin.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.

*All material remains the right of Christian Surfers International and no changes may be made without the consent of the CSI office.*