

It's Character, Not Anointing

It's not the characteristics of a leader that should draw you to follow them. No. It's their character, that's the most important criteria. Their character is a reflection of their heart, whereas, their words and performance while 'on duty' can be faked. People in our culture are impressed by the power, oratorical skill, academic qualifications, and wealth of a leader. They think that those characteristics identify a great leadership. This is a recipe for disaster.

For charismatic or pentecostal believers it's anointing that they use to identify a leader. This is a false premise as a believer can be a 'dirty rotten scoundrel', but still operate in their spiritual gifts. Unbelievable? No. God gives gifts, but never takes them back again.¹ The gifts can atrophy with lack of use, but they are not removed. You don't believe this? Then you are prone to deception.

Myles Munroe in his study of character in leadership makes some really valuable points about leaders. These go for the church, as well as society.

The Origin of Leadership Style

Myles believes the leadership style that Western society has adopted comes from the Greeks and Romans. I believe it's inherent in our fallen nature as native peoples, before Europeans came, had a hierarchy of leadership – American Indian chiefs, Aztec kings, Chinese emperors, etc. Despite this difference between our observations, Myles points about character are important to grasp.

The world's model of leadership is ingrained in our culture, and it has infiltrated the church. Myles writes:

“The sad fact is that those who have been oppressed don't seem to take on a different mind-set once they throw off their oppression and experience a measure of freedom. They suddenly adopt the same philosophy and attitudes toward their own people that had been used against them. For example, they may think, My skin color is lighter than yours, so I must be better. Why do people do this? Because it is the model of authority and power they have learned from their culture and by their personal experiences, so that it is ingrained in their thinking and attitudes.”²

Leadership titles are very dangerous as they feed into a person's propensity for self-aggrandisement:

“Sometimes, the worst thing you can do is give someone a title, because suddenly he thinks, I am better. I am privileged. Whether the title is president, executive, senior partner, supervisor, director, manager, pastor, or anything else, it becomes a problem for many people because their minds are still influenced by these false philosophies of leadership.”³

Study & Evaluate Your Leaders

Myles writes:

“Before you follow anyone, you must know what that person truly believes and on what path he is taking you. You might find out too late that you don't want to go where he is going. I encourage you not to place undue confidence on how powerful a leader is or how much knowledge he has or who his mentor was. Continually evaluate what your leaders stand for, as well as the policies they promote. Study their lives and convictions. Discover what they really think and value, and how their beliefs affect their policies.”⁴

1 – Romans 11:29

2 – Myles Munroe (2014) “The Power of Character in Leadership: How Values, Morals, Ethics, and Principles Affect Leaders” Whitaker House p:55

3 – Myles Munroe (2014) “The Power of Character in Leadership: How Values, Morals, Ethics, and Principles Affect Leaders” Whitaker House p:55

4 – Myles Munroe (2014) “The Power of Character in Leadership: How Values, Morals, Ethics, and Principles Affect Leaders” Whitaker House p:45

He suggests that we evaluate leaders by asking ourselves the following questions about them:

- Do they still have the same convictions that inspired you to follow them at the start?
- Do they demonstrate that they have ethical standards?
- Do they share your beliefs and values?
- What is their vision of life?
- What is their attitude toward other people?
- What do they see as the future of the company/organization/group/nation they belong to?
- What direction do they think the world should be taking?

A leader's convictions come from their character, which comes from what they believe to be true. What they believe to be true shapes the way their heart determines their speech, thoughts, actions and attitudes. It's the heart that is the source that you must know about them, first and foremost.⁵

No Church Leaders

The Kingdom has a flat leadership model. There is only one leader in the Kingdom and that's the King. He's the Head of his people and he works through Holy Spirit. No Kingdom citizens are leaders, as all citizens are equal. All follow the King as Holy Spirit leads, but some have different functions. One leadership-like function is oversight, which is apostolic in nature.

With that in mind, discussions of leadership character in a Kingdom Community should only relate to oversight or elder functions. Leadership character however is important in society where leaders are always present.



The Kingdom must override culture, so we must work against our cultural indoctrination and eliminate any moves towards leadership within Kingdom Communities.

Laurence

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