

Leadership and Discipleship Manual Excerpts (*Teaching No. 26*)

AN OVERVIEW OF WHAT IS IMPORTANT FOR ALL CHURCH LEADERS

(Selected readings from this teaching)

1) Having a vision to reach the lost

Jesus said, “Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for the harvest.

“And he who **reaps** receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that **both** he who **sows** and he who **reaps** may **rejoice together**. For in this the saying is true: ‘One sows and another reaps’” (**John 4:35-37**)

WE ALL HAVE A PART TO PLAY IN THE HARVESTING OF LOST SOULS

Every soul is precious to God. Every church should have a clear vision and plan for reaching the lost

The LORD said to the prophet Habakkuk, “Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, That he may run who reads it.” (**Habakkuk 2:2**)

2) Having a vision for equipping leaders (Building the Kingdom of God focus)

Every leader must invest time in helping to develop the next group of leaders. Mentoring and discipling future leaders will ensure the ongoing expansion of God’s Kingdom

The apostle Paul said to the young pastor Timothy, “You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” (**2 Timothy 2:1-2**)

3) Mobilising all Christians in their ministry gifts

Every Believer has a ministry and mission field. (Ephesians 2:10)

“For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.”
(Romans 12:4-8)

“There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit, There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:” **(1 Corinthians 12:4-7)**

THE BOOK OF PROVERBS SAYS

“And he who wins souls is wise.” **(Proverbs 11:30)**

It is important that all Christians are equipped and **encouraged to use their ministry gifts and shown how to effectively share their faith with unbelievers**.

ALL CHURCH LEADERS NEED TO HAVE A VISION TO HELP MOBILISE ALL CHRISTIANS TO USE THEIR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

(Running regular Spiritual Gifts workshops is a great starting point)

The Apostle Paul wrote, “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God.” **(Ephesians 4:11-13)**

4) **The importance of making disciples** (Feeding the sheep)

All Pastors have a responsibility for looking after those whom the Holy Spirit has entrusted to them. (**Acts 20:28**)

As part of this responsibility, pastors should be teaching and shepherding their flock to ensure that all the members in the church are given the opportunity to grow strong in their faith.

Every pastor should also be aware of the importance of their own lives being a role model to those who have been entrusted to their care.

The apostle Peter wrote, “Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.” (**1 Peter 5:2-5**)

Jesus Himself said, “Go there and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (**Matthew 28:19-20**)

Jesus gave the apostle Peter a threefold commission for him to be a shepherd to His sheep when He restored Peter.

“Feed My lambs”,

“Tend My sheep”, and

“Feed My sheep” (*John 21:15-17*)

Having small groups is a great way of connecting new Christians to the life of a church and to help all Christians to grow in their faith and to be encouraged to use their spiritual gifts.