

7 LESSONS OF LEADERSHIP

The following is advice from a Board President for his business, but the same principles would apply to church organizations.

Manage Up, Mentor Down

When you are someone's manager, team leader or boss, your job is to enable that person to be successful. When your employees are successful, they make you shine. As a manager, it is your responsibility to provide the tools, resources, and direction needed by your employees.

Share Ownership

When employees, customers, and other stakeholders engage in solutions, ownership shifts from the few to all. When everyone owns the organization, everyone feels responsible.

Pay Attention to What Is Shown AND What Is Said

Only 7 percent of verbal communication comes from our words. The rest of it comes from voice inflection and body language. When listening to someone, it is important to listen behind the words so that you can understand what they truly intend to communicate.

Live in Limbo

As a leader, it's not your responsibility to fix everything. In fact, the less you are personally responsible for fixing, the better off your organization. While you are waiting to match the problem with the people, you will need to sit with the situation without fixing it.

Be an Example

Whatever you expect from your team, you must be willing to exemplify. If you want a team that's punctual, you have to show up before everyone.

Teach, Don't Talk

When you tell your team what to do without giving them reason or context, they can follow the instructions and complete the task. However, when they need to do the same thing again, you will need to tell them again. On the other hand, if you provide for them the context for the directions, the next time the situation arises they can execute without your presence.

Praise Publicly, Punish Privately

When you chastise your staff publicly, you are alienating yourself from them and making your job as a leader infinitely difficult. You shine as a leader when you empower and enable every individual on your team to shine.

HAVE WE OVER MYSTIFIED RELIGION?

God created the heavens and the earth. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came to the earth as a propitiation for our sins so that we can have the possibility of eternal life. He lived a perfect life, was crucified, resurrected, and ascended into heaven.

That's pretty heavy stuff. Much of it is easy for a child to understand but hard to comprehend and must simply be taken on faith.

The following should offend most everyone on at least some point.

FORGIVENESS OF SINS:

We have made forgiveness of sins a very mystic subject. It is actually very simple. God made the rules, and if we violate the rules it is a sin. If God forgives the sins, they are forgiven. There is no other way for them to be forgiven.

ONLY WAY IT COULD BE DONE:

Many teach that the sacrifice of Christ is the only way we could possibly have forgiveness of sins. It is not the only way it could be done, it is the way it was done. If God/Jesus used any other plan, it would be the plan of God/Jesus and just as valid.

LENGTH OF CREATION DAYS:

The creation of the heavens and the earth is so massive an accomplishment of God that it is beyond our imagination. It seems almost demeaning to God to suggest that He had to do this in the rotational cycle of a small planet which did not even exist at the beginning. Insisting on 24 hour days or 14 billion years of existence are both unreasonable.

DOCTORATES IN BIBLE SCHOOL

Sermons and Bible class lessons should be the means to equip saints to do personal evangelism. Instead of being the means to the end, they have become the end.

In large part today, the end goal is to have sermons and Bible classes, not to do something with sermons and Bible classes. Wouldn't we be better off to use Bible Classes for small group evangelism projects.

ALL KNOWING GOD

We have developed a complicated understanding that God has all past, current, and future knowledge, but we are still free moral agents. It takes another doctorate to explain that. Wouldn't it be simpler to recognize that what you do tomorrow is not knowledge today and therefore God does not know it. The fact that God was sorry He made man (Genesis 6:6-7) indicates He did not have foreknowledge of what man was going to do or He wouldn't have been sorry.

CHURCH SURVEY: An interesting church survey would be to ask members:

1. How many hours per month would they be willing to spend doing various service projects to help spread the gospel?
2. What would you like to do?

It's a win-win survey. If they say something, you know what to do. If they say nothing, you know where you are.

As a church leader, wouldn't that be valuable information to have? You can do it on the back of an attendance card.

IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION

THE INCREDIBLE EDIBLE EGG! - 1

The chicken Germinal Disc or Blastodisc is fertilized or not by a male sperm and then is enclosed within a yellow Yoke.

The Yoke travels down a long spiraling tube called the Oviduct. As it travels down it is covered with a membrane, structural fibers, and layers of albumin (the egg white).

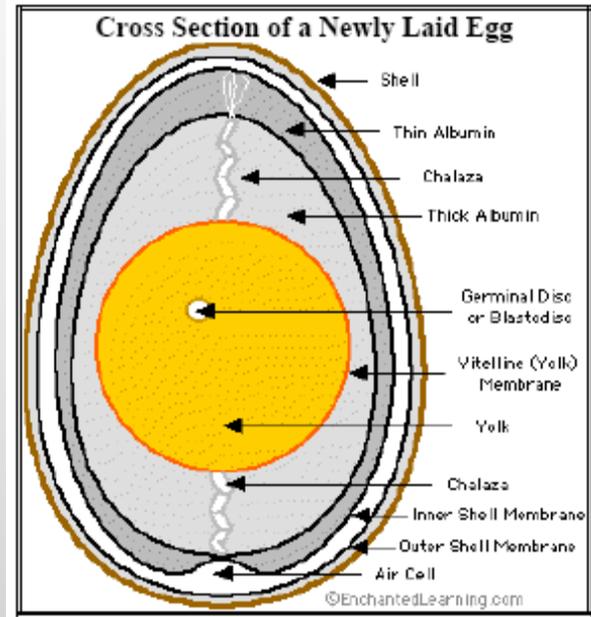
Just before being laid, the eggshell is deposited around the egg in the lower part of the oviduct. The shell is made of calcite, a crystalline form of calcium carbonate. The entire trip through the Oviduct takes about 1 day.

The shell is a really interesting part of the egg. We all know how strong the egg is and how pretty and uniform they are. Can you imagine how you would go about deciding to make a cell in your own personal birth canal?

As an engineer, the construction of the egg shell is particularly interesting. Using micrometers to measure 4 egg shells recently, in multiple places, the variation of the thickness around the shell varied less than the thickness of a single piece of Xerox paper, or about 0.003". Individual eggs (from the same carton) varied in wall thickness from 0.013" to 0.016" or from 0.015" - 0.018". You would characterize this thickness variation being between the thickness of 5 and 6 sheets of Xerox paper.

Those that would discount God would say this is the simple result of evolution. Which of them, knowing the desired result, can make an egg without sophisticated mixing and molding equipment.

God's chickens do this without even knowing they are doing it.



We may not know why the chicken crosses the road, however, we do know that chickens are smarter than evolutionists. With God's help, chickens know how to make an egg.

Imagine the trial and error of evolving an egg. If it is too soft it breaks and the chick dies. If it has a hole in it, the chick dies. If it is too hard, the chick can't get out and dies. A half evolved egg does not give the basis for a 3/4s evolved egg, it simply fails. You simply cannot evolve an egg.

As stated several times before, it takes a lot of faith to be an atheist.

LEARNING CURVE: COLLATERAL DAMAGE

Sometimes we talk too much. Hezekiah had that problem. He acquired such great riches that he had to build more storehouses for all his treasures of gold and silver and all kinds of valuables. Hezekiah received messengers with letters and gifts from the king of Babylon. He showed them everything in his storehouses. Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "The time will surely come when everything in your palace, and all that your fathers have stored up until this day, will be carried off to Babylon. Nothing will be left, says the Lord."

The response from Hezekiah was priceless. "The word of the Lord you have spoken is good," Hezekiah replied. For he thought, "Will there not be peace and security in my lifetime?" (2 Chron. 32:25-31; 2 Kings 20:12-19; Isa. 39:1-8) He had the attitude of some folks today, "Oh well, you can't see it from my house." In other word, the collateral damage is of no concern to me.

It appears that Hezekiah was not personally held accountable for the unintended consequences of his prideful talking too much. However, his children and grandchildren and all future generations surely paid the price. The treasures removed from the temple were lost forever.

Jesus made sure that we would understand the consequences of talking too much. "But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned." (Matt. 12:36-37)

Guarding our words and conversation is not the answer. We merely express what is in our hearts. "The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him." (Matt. 12:35) We must guard our hearts.

Our hearts sometime suffer the collateral damage of too much worldly entertainment and reading. Our attitudes and words overflow with the unintended consequences of our actions. Listen. What are your words revealing about your heart? "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen." Eph. 4:29

Elizabeth Brown, Texarkana, Texas

Atheism thrives in the United States comfortably under the protection of Christianity. The last thing an atheist would want to do is succeed and make America a fully atheistic country. Imagine if you exchange "do unto others as you would have them do unto you." for "survival of the fittest". Numerous dictatorships have done that. Not pretty. Imagine Christianity collapses and the void is filled by Islam. Just how free would an atheist be then?

Certainly atheist need to criticize Christianity, but not to much because they might win, then they would lose.

THE CHRISTIAN ARRAY

DEDICATED TO SUSTAINED SCRIPTURAL CHURCH GROWTH IN OUR GENERATION

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WHAT THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IS NOT

A local group of Christians who believe that the Bible can be updated by contemporary council decisions.

A church which receives the permission from an earthly headquarters to plant a new congregation.

A church which attempts to duplicate a 19th or 20th century pattern for a church.

A church which believes you can pick and choose what part of the Bible you want to believe and follow only those parts.

A church which believes that we should judge that we are all in a community of believers as long as we say we believe in Jesus, irrespective of what we do and preach. A church which should assure all others that they are saved.

A group who makes decisions based on popularity rather than scriptural basis.

A group which simply skips over Acts 2:38.

A group which finds more convenient ways to simulate baptism.

A group which votes on what it suits them to believe and preach or a group which believes that they are still getting direct revelations from God.

A group who believes we are here to entertain ourselves.

For those bound & determined to change the church of Christ to be the Christian Church, wouldn't it be easier to simply join the Christian Church? Is the problem that your conscience won't allow you to join the Christian Church, but if you can reduce the church of Christ to being the Christian Church you will not offend your conscience?

WHAT THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IS

The church of Christ is a local group of Christians which try to speak where the Bible speaks and remain silent where the Bible is silent.

The church of Christ tries to reestablish the first century pattern and teaching of the New Testament era at each location.

The church of Christ tries to reestablish the scriptural organization of the church at each location.

The church of Christ has members who believe they are following the scriptural teachings as best they can.

Church of Christ members believe that we should not judge others' eternal reward, but that it is not reasonable to give comfort to others who follow their own preferences rather than teachings of the Bible.

A non-instrumental body as instruments were available in the first century and not used, and not used for several centuries.

A group who teaches Acts 2:38.

A group which teaches baptism by immersion for the remission of sins as that is what is taught in the Bible.

A group which believes all revelation was given in the first century.

A group which believes we are responsible to take the Gospel to the world.

MONEY PAGE

GUARANTEED CHURCH GROWTH

If your congregation does the following, BCE Publications guarantees that it will grow.

Poll your congregation three times at 6 months intervals with the following results:

- 50% of the members know who their elder is
- 50% of the members will say that a minister is their friend
- 50% of the members will say that they are uplifted by the song services
- 50% of the men will say that their input is considered before physical decisions are made
- 50% of the members will say they are an important part of the work
- 50% of the members will say they are aware of the goals of the congregation
- 50% of the members will say that they know what their part is in achieving your goals

GUARANTEE: For the first congregation which does this and does not grow by at least 10%, we will send \$1000 to the church related children's home of your choice in your name.

I have never met a person who said that if they did this their church would not grow. If your congregation is not growing, what have you got to lose? (Offer made since 2001)

IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION?

We will offer \$100 to the first person who can explain how we could have violated the first law of thermodynamics and have come into existence without God.

We will offer \$100 to the first person who can explain how we could have violated the second law of thermodynamics and have existed forever without God. (Offer first posted 8/08)

IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION!

This publication continues (since 1991) to make a standing offer of \$100 to the first person who can give any reason (1 or more) as to why atheistic evolution is a better explanation for the universe and/or life than creation by God, The Father of Adam, Abraham, and Jesus; as revealed in the Bible.

We will also give you \$100 if we cannot give you 12 reasons why atheistic evolution is impossible as an explanation for our existence.

We will discuss this any place, any time, and in any forum. (Offer posed since June, 1991)

RUN AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT:

We will offer \$100 to the first person who can refute the logic that a person can in fact run at the speed of light as presented in the September 2009 issue of this newsletter.

THE MONEY PAGE:

This page may seem odd, even irreverent to offer money for something like this. It is 3 simple statements on church growth, that we cannot be here without God, and evolution is not possible. The steadfastness of putting money on the line for this is to try to be of assistance against those who would discourage church growth, believe in atheism, or promote atheistic evolution.

The page is intended to be a continuing reinforcement.

THE CHRISTIAN ARRAY

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AREA WIDE ACTIVITIES

2nd Tues. Preacher's Luncheon at Golden Island Buffet, 901 N. Shepherd,
confirm with Dale Foster at dalefost@gmail.com

Each Dec. Annual Sacred Harp Singing

May, 2012 Foster's Home for Children Golf Tournament, NW Houston

Aug 4-8 Area Wide Campaign for Christ
George R. Brown Convention Center

YAHOO GROUP

HoustonCofC is a Yahoo group hosted by Steve Sandifer [steve.sandifer@sbcglobal.net] for the purpose of communicating Houston area news among the brethren. It is open to any member of the church at no cost.

The Christian Array Newsletter

This newsletter will be sent to members of the church on a monthly basis as an attempt to promote area wide activities and church growth. If you do not want to receive this newsletter, send an e-mail to info@thearray.org and it will be stopped.

If you know of anyone who would like to receive this newsletter, send their e-mail addresses to info@thearray.org. All past copies of the newsletter can be found on the website "thearray.org".

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

A goal of this newsletter is to develop a mailing list of as many members of the church as possible and to communicate church related information to as many members as possible. In that light, we would appreciate:

1. Your forwarding the church member e-mail addresses which you have.
2. Sending the directory of the congregation you attend or any other directories which you might have.
3. Give us an idea of how to collect church member e-mail addresses.

The Christian Array is dedicated to support the sustained scriptural growth of the churches of Christ. It is published by BCE Publications, a 501(c)(3) organization with Benton F. Baugh, Ph.D., P.E. as editor BCE is solely responsible for the content. Any announcements, requests for publication, or comments should be e-mailed to info@thearray.org.