

A Gospel Centered, Shaped, and Fueled Leadership Culture

Elders/Leaders Marked by the Cross, Grace, and Resurrection of Jesus

1. They stay in discovery-and-marvel mode at the love of Jesus

John 13:1 - Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them **the full extent of his love.**

Q. What is more “marvelous” to me than the love of Jesus?

2. They live in submission to the ultimate Servant-Leader, Jesus

John 13:6-9 - He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?”

⁷ Jesus replied, “You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.”

⁸ “No,” said Peter, “you shall never wash my feet.”

Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.”

⁹ “Then, Lord,” Simon Peter replied, “not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!”

Q. Where am I resistant to the work of Jesus in my life?

3. They choose a “basin and towel,” over a scepter and scowl, for their leadership style

John 13: 13 - “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶ Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

Q. How do those under my care experience me as a leader?

4. They participate in a culture of dependence and interdependence

John 15:5 - “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

Q. How does my leadership style perpetuate the illusion of self-sufficiency, and “every man for himself”?

5. They know how critical fellowship with their Father is to... well, to everything – John 17

Q. What does my schedule say about the value I place on fellowshiping with my Father?

6. Peace marks their hearts

John 20:19-20 - On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

Q. Do I live and work with a core of peace... or fear, anxiety, anger, control?

7. Hope permeates their work

John 21:4-6 - Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.

⁵ He called out to them, “Friends, haven’t you any fish?”
“No,” they answered.

⁶ He said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.” When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

Q. Where have I placed my hope: In Jesus and his faithfulness; or in my reputation, performance, and rewards?

Elders as Gospel Pacesetters and Chief Repenters

The Indicatives of Grace

Philippians 2:1 Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

The Imperatives of Love

⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! ⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

What I learned about Pastoring and Eldership from having Jack Miller as a spiritual father for 21 years: Marks of a Servant Leader Growing in Grace

1. Gospel Astonishment – Informed Minds + Inflamed Hearts + Engaged Hands
2. Humility, vulnerability, and kindness
3. Quick to recognize, confess, and repent of sin
4. Boasting in weakness and in Christ
5. Foot-washing servanthood
6. Joyful, expectant, dependent prayer
7. Welcoming, loving, and protecting the least and the lost
8. A vigilant commitment to the means of grace
9. Walking with a Gospel Posse
10. Missional passion and engagement

KEY GOSPEL AFFIRMATIONS

Justification – As soon as you put your trust in Jesus, God not only forgave all of your sins (past, present and future—all sins of word, thought and deed), he also declared you to be righteous in his sight. God didn’t instantaneously make you into a righteous person (perfect you) when you trusted Jesus as your Savior. Rather, he put the perfect righteousness of Jesus into your account; because Jesus didn’t primarily come to be your model, but your substitute. Jesus is the Second Adam, not your second chance. God imputed Christ’s righteousness to you—securing you in the legal

status of a perfectly righteous person. Therefore, God cannot possibly love you more than he does right now and he will never love you less. In fact, he loves you just as much as he loves Jesus, and there's nothing you can do about it!

Propitiation – Even as Jesus' righteousness has been legally declared yours, so all of your sins have been legally declared to belong to Jesus. They were imputed to Jesus upon the cross. This means that when Jesus died on the cross, God exhausted his judgment against you and your sins. The cross was your Judgment Day. God will never deal with you according to your sins again, because he dealt with Jesus according to your sins; he will never again relate to you as a judge. He will discipline you in love as a Father, but he will never punish you as a judge.

Adoption – As soon as you put your trust in Jesus, you were legally adopted into God's family and were given all the rights and delights of being a beloved child of God. You can never lose this status and standing. God even placed his Holy Spirit in your heart to seal you as his child and to constantly whisper (sometimes shout!) that you are no longer an orphan or a slave, but his passionately loved and treasured child. You cannot intensify nor diminish God's Fatherly affection for you. God loves all of his sons and daughters the same.

Sanctification – Sanctification is the life long process of becoming more and more like Jesus. And like your justification, sanctification is entirely a work of grace—thus growing up in Jesus is called “growth in grace.” There is no room for earning or meriting anything in your sanctification. Don't be surprised or discouraged; a sign that you are being sanctified is that you see more of your sin and brokenness, but even more of Jesus' beauty and righteousness. God is going to show you what is repent-able and what is repairable in your life—for we are all agents and victims of sin. This journey will continue throughout your life and will only be completed at the second coming of Jesus. God doesn't love you right now to the degree you are like Jesus, but to the degree you are in Jesus—which is totally!

Glorification – Glorification is the magnificent completion of your salvation which God has promised and which God will provide. One Day, you will be as lovely as and as loving as Jesus. You cannot become “un-born-again.” You are destined to live as a beautiful you, with our beautiful God, in a beautiful world (the new heaven and new earth), with beautiful relationships, beautiful culture, beautiful society, beautiful everything, forever!!!