



Cultural and Biblical Issues in Leadership Education¹

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Development of leadership in emerging churches is a major missiological concern. The biblical and cultural issues are numerous and complex.

1. What is acceptable credibility for those who educate the leaders in churches? How can missionaries best relate to ministry education?
2. Who are the leaders in the emerging churches and what are their characteristics?
3. To what extent does a leader in the church need “peculiar” attributes?
4. How does *giftedness* relate to *calling* and then to *effectiveness*?
5. What happens when conflicts emerge among the following images (styles) of leadership?
 - a) Leaders in the culture of the local communities, families, and organization;
 - b) Leaders in the home cultures of the missionaries; and
 - c) Leaders as described (prescribed?) In biblical teaching and examples.

Sociological Issues

1. The Planter As “Outsider”—The Pragmatics of Church Planting
 - The influence of tradition.
 - The influence of images and the power of words.
 - Who makes the language for intercultural experiences?
 - What are the images inherent in *Church Planter, Professor, Teacher, Pastor*?
2. Insiders and Outsiders—Outsiders Lead First
 - Whose church? Whose hospital? Whose school?
 - Where do the resources come from?
 - How many outsiders are needed to make a majority?

Educational Issues

3. Assumptions about the Nature of Educational Process
 - Learning as everyone’s business . . . as a commonplace.
 - Learning: Mental muscles and the behavior of parrots.
 - Learning: Nothing beyond the brain.
 - Learning as passive process.

¹ Ted Ward. Cultural and Biblical Issues in Leadership Education. Overseas Ministries Study Center, January 20-24, 1997

4. The Tendency to Institutionalize

The common human drive toward stability and form.

“As it was in our beginning”

Institutions as good news and bad news.

Owning an institution: How does it come to pass?

5. The Emerging “One World” of Formal Education

Common standards and dissimilar images of excellence.

Transferability and accreditation.

Pedagogical images of school and schooling.

Similarities among formal education, nonformal education, and socialization.

Dissimilarities

Historical Issues

6. Historical Demographics of Leadership in the Churches Worldwide

Why is leadership not the same thing the world over?

What images of Christian leadership came first in the newly evangelized world?

How can incorrect images of leadership *from outside* be corrected?

How can inappropriate images of leadership *from inside* be corrected?

7. Cultural Assumptions about Authority, Power, Control, and Truth

What assumptions and images of the church do missionaries generally carry?

What are the various ways human societies organize for authority?

What values are dominant in the western world’s ways of managing?

What dissonances can arise when dominant models of leadership are in conflict?

8. Biblical Theology of Offices and Authority in the Church

What terms does the Bible use to deal with leadership and authority structures?

What are the differences among uses of *authority*, *gifts*, *offices*, and *ministries*?

What is the typical process of leadership development in the scriptures?

Of what importance is the Old Testament image of priesthood? What is different in the New Testament?

Biblical Issues

9. Jesus as Model and Definer of Leadership for the Christian Community

What was most evident in Jesus activity, interactional style and teaching?

When does Jesus become a leadership model for Christians?

If Jesus was all he said he was, then is he a realistic example for us?

What did Jesus lead his disciples into that prepared them for leadership?

10. Theologically Responsible Guidelines for the Leadership of Churches in Various Cultures.

Where are the Bible stories that tell of the development of leaders?

What are the explicit teachings about leaders and how they are developed?

Why is the modern English word *leadership* common in the English Bible?

What do the Epistles add to the teachings of Jesus about leadership?

Continuing task for all participants:

Drawing upon every discussion and upon all the readings identified, keep a *continuous log* of your reflections upon the matter of *leadership for, in, and by the church*. On a daily basis, develop these reflections into *projections, implications, and propositions*. Your thinking and the scope of your perceptions are expected to deepen, intensify, go into chaos from time to time, and ultimately, to change. Keep track of the process.