

# CELEBRITIES, HEROS AND LEADERS

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- I. PRAYER – “May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.”
- II. BACKGROUND
  - a) Email from Joe
- III. LIST OF CELEBS, HEROES AND LEADERS
  - a) Bishop Coyner’s email
- IV. HOW DOES THIS SUBJECT FIT WITH THE BIBLE?
  - a) Three Biblical references to Heroes
    - i) Isaiah 5:22
  - b) Seven Biblical references to Leadership (Most in the Apocrypha)
    - i) 1 Cor 12:28
  - c) There are no Biblical references to Celebrities
- V. DEFINITION OF CELEBRITY
  - a) “A person who is famously recognized in a society or culture”
  - b) Generally speaking, a celebrity is someone who gets media attention and most frequently has an extroverted personality. There are a wide range of ways people can become celebrities, from their profession, appearances in the mass media, beauty or even by complete accident or infamy. In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, the insatiable public fascination for celebrities and appetite for celebrity gossip has seen the rise of the gossip columnist, tabloid, paparazzi and celebrity blogging.
  - c) How many subscribe to or buy PEOPLE, US, STAR, Etc. at the newsstand?
- VI. What is the fascination or driving force people are searching for in celebrities?
- VII. DEFINITION OF HERO
  - a) A person of distinguished courage or ability for his brave deeds and noble qualities. Is regarded as a model or ideal.
  - b) Where do we find most of our heroes? (USE LIST)
    - i) Distinguishing event to make them heroes?
    - ii) Biblical heroes

Jesus	Peter	Mary
John the Baptist	Abel	Noah
Stephen	Sarah	Enoch
Moses	Miriam	Jacob
Paul of Taurus	Gideon	Jonah
Abraham	Jabez	Job
Daniel	Joel	John the Apostle
Joseph	Naomi	Samson
Queen Ester	Deborah	Isaac
King David	Nehemiah	Mary Madeline

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## VIII. DEFINITION OF LEADER

- a) In its essence, leadership in an organizational role involves (1) establishing a clear vision, (2) sharing (communicating) that vision with others so that they will follow willingly, (3) providing the information, knowledge, and methods to realize that vision, and (4) coordinating and balancing the conflicting interests of all members or stakeholders. A leader comes to the forefront in case of crisis, and is able to think and act in creative ways in difficult situations. Unlike management, leadership flows from the core of a personality (charisma) and cannot be taught, although it may be learnt and may be enhanced through coaching or mentoring.
- b) “A leader is one who inspires others to greatness. A leader “does what he says he will do”. A leader motivates and inspires others to succeed. A leader is a visionary who has the ability to communicate that vision and inspire others to support it.”
- c) Leadership is the act of influencing/serving others out of Christ’s interests in their lives so they accomplish God’s purposes for and through them. Influence comes from serving by:
  - i) Modeling
  - ii) Instructing
  - iii) Exhorting
  - iv) Evaluating
  - v) Confronting
  - vi) Training
  - vii) Releasing
- d) Bible.org -- Serving is slave leadership—a radical commitment to Christ in every follower’s life that impels the leader to act in love with truth no matter what it costs that leader (Mt. 20:26-27; John 12:16; Phil 2:5-11; II Cor 4:5)
- e) Leaders and followers must think of themselves in light of how God has gifted them
  - i) God has given every believer a gift
  - ii) God plans to bless every believer through the exercise of these gifts
- f) Leaders must have in-depth relationships
  - i) You cannot have an in-depth relationship with everyone you lead, but everyone on your team or in your sphere of responsibility should have some kind of in-depth relationship with a leader former. Some will be more effective than others as leader formers, but all must have someone ahead of them who seeks to know them at the heart level.
- g) Leaders must have the courage to take loving stands
  - i) The courage to take loving stands relates directly to your willingness to confront. Taking stands doesn’t always involve confrontation, but it certainly can lead to it. Frequently, followers want their leader to take a stand even when they argue for a different position. Sometimes they are seeking for leadership from their leader as well as testing their leader’s willingness and courage to fulfill their responsibility and lead. Taking stands does not mean you should be inflexible; the secret to taking stands is knowing what is worth entering tension over and what isn’t. Make certain the stand you take is for the benefit of the

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person's growth in light of the defined and agreed upon vision and goals, not just for policies, your preference or convenience

- h) Leaders must be willing to be vulnerable
    - i) Vulnerability is the willingness to let my followers see my needs, my fears, my feelings, and my growth in such a way that it edifies them and helps them grow in character and competence.
  - i) Leaders must willingly humble themselves
  - j) Leaders must have clarity of vision
  - k) Leaders must have an accurate understanding of truth
  - l) Leaders must be willing to risk rejection
  - m) Leaders must have insight in the hearts of others
  - n) Leaders must understand the hearts of those they influence
  - o) Leaders must need to keep a journal of their growth
  - p) Leaders need sensitivity as to how to respond to others
- IX. Bible Leadership—[www.any-occasion-free-christian-game.com](http://www.any-occasion-free-christian-game.com)
- a) Leaders can be trusted
  - b) People are lead and processes are managed
  - c) LEADERSHIP PRINCIPLES IN SCRIPTURE
    - i) Leaders don't think of themselves as better than everyone else
    - ii) Leaders care about the people who work in their organization
    - iii) Leaders are able to communicate the mission and goals
    - iv) Leaders can be trusted—they are fair
    - v) Leaders are objective
    - vi) Leaders understand the importance of earning respect and having a good reputation
  - d) BIBLE LEADERSHIP MODEL
    - i) Since scripture applies to all of us, that means we are all leaders. Those who serve God and live according to His principles are leaders. Whether we are in a position of "authority" or not.
      - (1) Understands that the ultimate leader is God, and seeking Him is paramount to success.
      - (2) Prays continuously and all actions are guided by the Holy Spirit
      - (3) Personal characteristics are modeled after the "Fruits of the Spirit"
      - (4) Plans projects with careful consideration
      - (5) Supports the promotion and success of employees (followers).
      - (6) Communicates vision and goals clearly with motivation
      - (7) Exhibits excellence and diligence
      - (8) Bottom line—If you want to be a successful leader, follow the principles outlined in the Bible.
- X. BIBLICAL REQUIREMENTS OF LEADERS—[www.buildingchurchleaders.com](http://www.buildingchurchleaders.com)
- a) Four qualifications
    - i) Commitment
    - ii) Conviction

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iii) Competency

iv) Character

- XI. What Americans REALLY WANT...REALLY by Frank Luntz
- a) Priority 1 – resetting our expectations about life, opportunity, and the American dream
  - b) Priority 2 – Renewing our Celebration of the American family
  - c) Priority 3 – Reestablishing the respect for Religion in America
    - i) We really behave sinfully: we are envious, greedy gluttons, vain, wrathful, lustful, slothful
  - d) Priority 4 – Rebuilding the mutual commitment between employer and employee
  - e) Priority 5 – Reinstilling accountability in American government
  - f) Priority 6 – Restoring personal responsibility and empowering creativity among America's youth
  - g) Priority 7 – Respecting the accomplishments, experience and continuing resources of America's seniors
  - h) Priority 8 – Investing time and commitment into mentorship
  - i) Priority 9 – Remembering to have some fun along the way

### WHERE DOES THIS TAKE US AS CHRISTIANS AND AS LEADERS?

- I. We as individuals have choices to make
  - a) Be a leader
  - b) Be a follower
  - c) Be a nothing
- II. What does God call you to be?
  - a) Celebrity
  - b) Hero
  - c) Leader
    - i) Being a leader is not a position but rather a role than can be filled by those who feel the call
    - ii) There are big leadership roles and there are small leadership roles

### INTRODUCE JOHN HOLT

I guess we won't be going to Chicago for the 2016 Olympic Games.

Many Americans seemed shocked that Rio was picked over Chicago by the Olympic Committee. Those folks may not have been to Rio to see what a beautiful area it is, or they may not have considered that it was time for the Olympics to be held in South America.

But I suspect most Americans were surprised because we in America tend to be confused about heroes, celebrities, and leaders. We tend to think that people are important and persuasive just because they are celebrities. We make heroes out of our celebrities and assume that they are leaders. One writer has stated with great wisdom: "we tend to confuse celebrity with leadership."

So the Chicago Olympic Team sent Oprah to "sell" the international community on Chicago as the site for the 2016 games. Why Oprah? Because she is a celebrity. Even the presence of President and Mrs. Obama seemed to be geared around their celebrity, not a sense of real leadership. Why? Because we Americans love celebrities, and we are fascinated by how our celebrities live, behave, and especially misbehave. (Note how fascinated we are by the latest news about David Letterman, who has lost my respect by his admission of misconduct with women on his staff. It may not be against the law for a male supervisor to have sex with female staff persons, but it certainly violates every appropriate boundary for working place ethics. And yet the audience cheered him when he announced his "creepy side.")

By contrast to our US reliance upon celebrities, the Brazilian team sent Pele, the most famous soccer player in the world, a person who is a genuine hero in the entire southern hemisphere, and a leader in the Olympic movement. Yes, the President of Brazil was also present to help their cause, but his role seemed a more statesmanlike role of leadership - not a rush in, rush out trip like our US celebrities who thought their mere presence would be persuasive.

We in America need to stop idolizing our celebrities, especially when their own lifestyles set unhealthy examples. We need to celebrate our true leaders who offer themselves as servants to support important causes. And we need to recognize the quiet heroes in our midst who make our life possible. There are real heroes among us, but they are not the celebrities who get all of the attention of the media.

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