

“MEN AND CONFIDENCE”

1 Corinthians 16:13

Article: The critical connection between confidence and leadership. True in ministry. Our scrip: Act like men!

I. DIFFERENCES

A. Ministry is individual – differences in different men; Preaching is truth through personality

1. **There are varying personalities:** *Some loud – some quiet*

a. That's ok – you don't have to be someone else in order to be used by God

1. *Jesus disciples: Some loudmouthed/opinionated – some apparently quiet*

2. **There is personal intimidation/fear:** *Jeremiah 1:8 Don't be afraid of their faces...*

a. Some are not comfortable with people in general – some are not comfortable with crowds

1. *Fear of public speaking higher than fear of death*

b. Some are not comfortable speaking to people one-on-one

3. **There are misunderstandings**

a. Some people/come cultures think it is bad to be confident: *He's full of himself*

1. *They preface any effort with...I don't know why they asked me/I'm not very good*

b. They think people will receive them better if they profess no confidence

4. **There are feelings/emotions**

a. I don't feel confident/I don't feel like doing this

1. And many people live their lives by feelings

II. UNDERSTANDING

A. You need to understand what causes people to follow

1. Lack of confidence doesn't inspire confidence in others!

a. *Waiters – it's ok b. Surgeon: I hope it goes ok – I'm not very good at it*

2. What makes people listen to you? Confidence breeds confidence!

a. Successful men in any field express confidence/speak confidently/act confidently

B. You need to understand the reality of uncertainty

1. We live in an uncertain world

a. We are taught nothing is certain/absolute

b. Everything changes at such a rapid pace: Once ok – now shameful

1. It is bewildering/disorienting to not have certainty!

2. So when the church doesn't have certainty/men of God don't have certainty – it repels!

a. *Thom Ranier Surprising Insights From the Unchurched: People rejected churches that didn't have strong beliefs. Denominations that don't have strong beliefs are declining.*

III. ACTING LIKE MEN

A. Our scrip command: **1 Cor 16:13** Act like men – be strong!

1. **You need to speak with confidence:** This involves volume and intensity - authority

a. Prayer: Lift your voice

b. Preaching: *You have to be able to lift your voice in volume and intensity*

1. These may not come naturally: Work on it! Record yourself. Get with others

c. The ones who can't do this are filled with pride: *You can't be a man of God!*

2. **You need to overcome your feelings and act like a man:**

a. **V13 KJV** *quit ye like men...Act like men!* Play the man; Not pounding your chest – acting macho

1. Decisions to do what's right – regardless of circumstances or how you feel

2. Part of that is acting like you are confident – regardless of how you feel

a. *Put on your game face: You act like you know what you're doing – like you have the best*

b. We don't do this to be a hypocrite – but we do it for other people: They need our confidence

3. **You need to speak words of confidence and certainty:**

a. God is going to help you...it won't always be like this

1. *Beginning of COVID Me: it won't last forever – it won't always be this way; Someone quoted that to me. They were paying attention – it was helping them get through bewildering times!*

b. **Deuteronomy 31:6** *Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."*

The Critical Connection Between Confidence and Leadership

Peter Stark

During the past twenty years, our research and hands-on experience with leaders has led us to feel strongly that there is one aspect of leadership that is so critical, that without it, real leadership cannot exist. That one critical component is confidence.

Confidence is the foundation of leadership. You can teach a leader to be an effective problem solver; become more decisive; a better communicator; how to coach, mentor and hold team members accountable; and many other fundamentals of leadership. Yet, without that leader first believing in himself or herself, true leadership will exist only in title. In essence, related to leadership confidence, the first sale must be to yourself. Meaning, that if you don't believe that you have the personal confidence to lead, gaining followers will be tough, or impossible.

As Francisco Dao, a lifelong entrepreneur, says, "Self-confidence is the fundamental basis from which leadership grows. Trying to teach leadership without first building confidence is like building a house on a foundation of sand. It may have a nice coat of paint, but it is ultimately shaky at best."

People like to work with and admire leaders who are confident, yet humble. There is a natural tendency to trust people more when they appear confident. For most of us, dealing with a confident person helps assure us that the person is also competent. Generally, when a leader exhibits confidence, it makes it easier to trust that leader, and people want to work with leaders they trust.

When leaders exhibit confidence, they typically:

Are happy: They feel positive about their ability to lead people and deal with daily challenges. They have a "can do" attitude about whatever comes their way. Their team members appreciate working with an upbeat leader who holds a positive vision.

Have better relationships: They enter into positive, productive relationships. They feel good about themselves, treat others well and in turn, they are treated well by others.

Are motivated and ambitious: They set goals and are motivated to accomplish them. They believe that the work they do is important and makes a difference in the company or even the world.

Laugh more: They can see the humor, even in challenging situations, and have the ability to put things into perspective. They also laugh sooner and more often.

Are open to risks: Or at least calculated risks. They confidently forge into the unknown and learn from their mistakes. They are not safely mired on the sidelines, but in the thick of the play.

Recognize success: Not only do they look for opportunities to genuinely recognize the success of others, they are also able to openly receive compliments, never discounting the sender by saying, "I was just doing my job."

Accept feedback: They welcome feedback from others and put their ideas into action. Because of their receptivity, people keep coming to them with feedback and ideas for improvement, helping the leader continue to grow and develop.

Think for themselves: They have a deep sense of their core values – what is right and wrong, and although open to feedback from others, confidently form their own opinion or pick their own course of action. They are easy to follow, because their words and actions are in alignment and consistent.

Remember, it is confidence that separates average leaders from great leaders. In reality, self-confidence is a more important asset than skill, knowledge, or even experience. Without confidence, you will find it difficult to make tough decisions, lead meetings with authority, get people to communicate with you candidly, and be open to feedback, particularly when it is of the constructive type. Without confidence, you will second-guess your decisions and find yourself becoming defensive, when challenged. Without confidence, you may find yourself sadly lacking in one very important component of leadership... followers.

Never underestimate the critical connection between confidence and leadership. When people feel your confidence and trust you, they more willingly invest their time, energy and loyalty to ensure that you and the team are successful. Do something on a daily basis to boost your leadership confidence.