

Philosophy of Biblical Leadership

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Leadership Philosophy

– a structured approach to leading others, which is grounded in your own belief system. It centers on your set of values, principles and vision and guides your decision-making as a leader.¹

Why develop your own?

Writing a leadership philosophy statement helps you define your beliefs and identify the type of leader you want to be, which enables you to focus on future long-term goals. Leaders use their leadership philosophy statement as a reference point for consistently guiding their team.

A **secular leadership philosophy** is composed of 4 key elements:

- Theory: establishes a leader's vision of their role and aspirations.
- Perspective: Shapes how you define a leader, their role and what they expect from others.
- Guiding Principles: The values that a leader prioritizes to guide their leadership role and what they consider most important in their leadership style.
- Behavior: The actions a leader takes to achieve their goals. Values, attitude and theory inform their behavior as a leader.

A **biblical leadership philosophy** is composed of 4 key elements:

- Theology - servant leadership (Philippians 2:3; Matthew 20:26)
 1. Be like Jesus: light & life. John 1:17
 - a. Bring the light into every environment - expose darkness by the power of the Holy Spirit living within you, employing kind & respectful responses - Eph. 4:32; 1 Peter 3:15
 - b. Be life-giving in every experience - display grace & truth like Jesus John 1:17; Eph. 4:15; 1 Peter 1:22
- Attitude - the mind of Christ (Philippians 2:5-11 - Jesus was all in, never entitled, totally selfless, completely surrendered, fully dependent on God the Father) What it takes to get there:
 1. Request God's evaluation/refinement - Ps. 19:12-14; Ps. 139:23-24; Jeremiah 10:23-24
 2. Practice continued self-evaluation - Ps. 15:1-2
 3. Keep short accounts: confess/repent - James 4:5-9
 4. Humble yourself toward God - James 4:10

- Guiding Principles - Accept the truth of God's continuous presence with you and activity around you (Romans 8:28-29; Galatians 5; Ephesians 4)
 1. Preach/teach simply ONLY ONE gospel: Jesus Christ and Him crucified. Jesus is the ONLY way. (1 Corinthians 2:1-5)
 2. Operate in the wisdom of God (1 Corinthians 2:6-16)
 - a. Believe in the Spirit of God living within you (Eph. 1:13)
 - b. Ask & Listen to the Spirit of God living within you (James 4:1-10)
 - c. Align your thought patterns with the Mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16; James 3:13-18)
- Behavior - Beatitudes: Love God/Love People (Psalm 15; Matthew 5; 1 John 1)

Making it Personal

1. Using the 4 Key Elements of a **Biblical Leadership Philosophy**, compose your personal philosophy by which you will live in your leadership roles.
 - a. Identify theological principles that support your philosophy.
 - b. What attitudes of your heart will you seek to maintain?
 - c. What principles from God's Word will guide you as you live into your leadership roles?
 - d. What behavior will you commit to live into as you lead others?
2. Be sure to include biblical references so that your philosophy is undergirded in biblical principles of leadership.
3. Share your philosophy with someone whom you respect, asking their perspective on your philosophy and confirming the use of the scriptural foundations you have selected.
4. Revise in any way the Holy Spirit guides you, in order to refine your personal philosophy.
5. When challenged in your leadership role, revisit your written philosophy for personal evaluation, strength and guidance.

RESOURCES CITED

www.uk.indeed.com

The Holy Bible