



President's Reflections

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I often read John Maxwell and his comments on Leadership. I found the following reflection to be worthwhile. Take some time to read and reflect on the observations and I am sure they will hit home. The more I learn, the less I realize I know. Some experts think they know everything, but they don't. It is this realization that motivates me each day to seek more knowledge.

"Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord." Romans 12:10-11

Leadership

Many leaders commit the error of separating leadership from relationships. This happens when people step into leadership positions and assume that everyone will follow them because they have been designated as the head of an organization. We have to get to know and understand the people we are working with if we are to be successful in leading them.

Some leaders wrongly believe that their knowledge alone qualifies them to lead others. The individuals who have studied leadership soon find that people are not inclined to follow the "book-learned" leader. People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care. We cannot separate leadership from relationships. Leaders help themselves by developing good relational skills by working with their fellow workers.

St. Paul in his letters reminds us of some of those skills:

- *Avoid hypocrisy*
- *Be loyal to colleagues*
- *Give preference to others in need*
- *Be hospitable*
- *Return good for evil*
- *Identify with others*
- *Be open-minded towards others*
- *Treat others with respect*
- *Do everything possible to keep peace*
- *Remove revenge from your life*

At times it is a real challenge to work on becoming holier and rise above the "fray". In times of difficulty and conflict with individuals, it is good to remember that people are motivated by their relationships. Parents, in particular, are guided by love and loyalty to their children. It is our calling to help the parents deal with the difficulty while keeping a positive relationship with them and their children. Being a leader isn't easy but necessary when leading our children and supporting our parents.