

Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, Pastor Richard White, III

UNITY IN TEACHING

Using Our Gifts to
Strengthen & Encourage
the Church

- Ephesians 4:11-12



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*"NEVER TRY TO EXPLAIN
GOD UNTIL YOU'VE OBEYED
HIM. THE ONLY PART OF
GOD WE UNDERSTAND IS
THE PART WE HAVE
OBEYED."*

- OSWALD CHAMBERS

LEADERSHIP FAITH CONFESSIONS

- *No weapon formed against me shall prosper, and every tongue that rises against me in judgment, I condemn - Isaiah 54:17.*
- *I am established in righteousness and oppression is far from me – Isaiah 54:14.*
- *The weapons of my warfare are not carnal but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds – 2 Corinthians 10:4.*
- *I take the shield of faith, and I quench every fiery dart of the enemy – Ephesians 6:16.*
- *I take the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, and use it against the enemy – Ephesians 6:17.*
- *I am redeemed from the curse of the law. I am redeemed from poverty. I am redeemed from sickness. I am redeemed from spiritual death – Galatians 3:13.*
- *I overcome all because greater is He that is in me than He that is in the world – 1 John 4:4.*
- *The Lord is my sun and my shield. The Lord gives me grace and glory. God withholds no good thing from me because I walk uprightly. – Psalm 84:11*
- *I am delivered from the power of darkness and translated into the Kingdom of God's dear Son – Colossians 1:13.*
- *I do not have the spirit of fear but power, love and a sound mind – 2 Timothy 1:7.*
- *I am blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ Jesus – Ephesians 1:3.*
- *I am healed by the stripes of Jesus – Isaiah 53:5.*

Because the above is true, what does that mean when it comes to God-centered and God-ordained leadership? Be specific: _____

Stretch Video and Questions for Discussion:

1. The only value of the rubber band is to be _____.
2. It is absolutely _____ until it is _____.
3. Which is the benefit that we give to others? _____

4. Why do we improve ourselves? _____

5. What is the greatest way to add value to others? _____

6. How does this video relate to leadership in the church? _____

7. When you describe your leadership during 2022, what type of rubber band were you? _____

8. Are you ready to be stretched today? _____

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- Has your church reached its fullest potential yet?
- Can your church reach its fullest potential without changing anything?
- What if nothing changes?
- What does spiritual growth look like at your church? Is it measurable?
- Are you open to whatever god wants to do at your church?
- Do you really understand the purpose of your church?
- If your church were to close, would anyone other than your members fight to keep it open?

QUOTES

There is surely nothing quite so useless as doing with great efficiency what should not be done at all..... Peter Drucker

When you are through changing, you are through..... Bruce Barton

Our options are to learn this new game . . . Or to continue practicing our present skills and become the best players in a game that is no longer being played..... Larry Wilson

Facing difficulties is inevitable. Learning from them is optional..... John C. Maxwell

What got us here won't get us there..... Gary McIntosh

The significant problems we face today cannot be solved at the same level of thinking we were at when we created them..... Albert Einstein

The illiterates of the future will not be those who cannot read or write but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn..... Alvin Toliver

Evaluate your church by asking, 'What is our business?' and then 'How's business?' Rick Warren

When we are no longer able to change a situation, we are challenged to change ourselves. Victor Frank

WHY CHANGE

God is constantly changing and adjusting the spiritual leader. When the leader changes, then he/she must make changes to accomplish what God has directed – [Jeremiah 33:3](#), [Isaiah 48:8-9](#).

When we understand the purpose, then change is automatic. We must never forget that there are different methods for achieving the same purpose. Many times the church behaves as if God is not directing us in the present. We behave as if God has only one method or one way.

- We should never fall in love with a method – never fall in love with anything that cannot love you back. Methods are determined by man, but the purpose is established by God. When God gave the talents in [Mathew 25:14](#), He never told them how to grow them, but the expectation was growth.
- Most disputes over methods probably have totally ignored the purpose. When you focus on the purpose, then do what will accomplish the purpose.
- Methods have to do with relevance. Relevance is crucial when leading people. Relevance determines whether we reach people or not. Methods are generational, cultural, and time-sensitive. Walt Kallestad says “that traditions must be used to guide us to the future without shackling us to the past.”
- Purpose allows us to establish goals and measurements. If you do not know your purpose, then you can never measure your progress.

DEFINITION OF LEADERSHIP

To use your influence to get people to do what they would never do on their own. To lead people to a place where they would not go on their own. Biblical leadership at every level carries the idea of moving people from here to there. If the people are not moving, you are not leading. There comes a time in every growing church when that church will not move any further without leadership teams powered by God. It does not matter how godly the pastor; the church is team driven. No pastor can grow the church without a God-driven Leadership Team. Remember, if the vision is from God, it is bigger than anyone.

REDEFINING LEADERSHIP

In the past, not much has been expected of the leaders in the church. Individuals were selected or appointed to leadership positions without any expectation to accomplish anything. It has been inferred just to maintain what already is. Historically in many churches, leaders were satisfied with being called a leader without any demonstration of leadership. Not much attention was given to gifts or abilities. Many times tenure was the determining factor or popularity. Many leaders are just trying to occupy the position without intent on serving. Many leaders have a problem leaving their willpower behind.

In today's church, if it is to grow and achieve success, *real*, *relevant*, and *revitalizing* leaders are a must if the church is going to overcome inertia and move to vision implementation. If the church is going to continue to grow, its leaders must continue to grow – [John 8:31-32](#). Leadership in the 21st Century must be redefined to include productivity, movement, and accomplishment of goals and objectives (vision and mission). No longer can only the pastor be held to a production standard. The church is not an airplane where there is one pilot, and the rest of the people are along for the ride. It is more like a battleship where all hands must be on deck.

300 Video and Questions for Discussion:

1. In what ways were the two armies different?

2. How did the 300 display their unity? How do you think they became so unified?

3. Which army will be more effective and why?

4. What lessons on unity does the video teach about effective teaching?

5. What does this clip show about personal agendas?

6. Which army most closely resembles the membership of Dexter Ave Baptist Church?

7. How important was the role of the leader in the 300?

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

***But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says.
Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.***

James 1:22 NLT

**Thank you for your submission and application of God's
Word.**

