

Church Leadership is Characterized by Worship— in Body (Visible) and Mind (Invisible)

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect (Romans 12:1-2).

God has given pastors and lay leaders the privilege and responsibility to shepherd the church in today's dynamic and increasingly pluralistic society will be pressured for directions and decisions that will contribute to the growth of the flock, for the advancement of the Gospel. Our minds subconsciously raise the often-heard and often-argued "growth in numbers (fruitfulness), or maturity (faithfulness)"? Whichever position one takes, there will be no lacking of convincing arguments. The fundamental question for church leaders to lead their flock from spiritual infants into spiritual maturity is, however: "What characterizes our leadership?"



Worship in the Body; Visible and External

Pastors and lay-leaders are the under-shepherds of Jesus' flock. The church's existence and endeavours in ministry flow out of our loving response to Jesus's sacrificial love for us. Thus, the churches' attitudes and actions (activities) reflect a heart of worship for Jesus, our Saviour and Sovereign. The essence of worship, when rightly understood and applied, points to humanity's homage to the Creator God, who deserves and demands our absolute submission and surrender. This is a relationship that was bestowed by the Creator, not assumed by the created ones. Hence, church leaders modelled worship, so that the followers will not only hear, but also see what worship of God entails and looks like.

Biblical teaching must be backed up by living out the truth. God's message must be backed up by God's messengers who set the example by walking the talk. Leaders who are lacking in the area of personal, intimate worship of God will fail to lead the flock towards a vibrant worship of God. Leaders ignite the passion and set the pace for the flock to follow.

Worship in the Mind; Invisible and Internal

What is visible and external can be detected and evaluated. Church leaders' actions can be appraised and appreciated or rejected accordingly. What transpires underneath the skin, in the deep recess of our minds cannot be fathomed by our fellow humanity. Only God knows the minds of every individual church leaders. Wise and careful church leaders examine their lives under the lens of Scripture. Every decision and direction that impacts the church's mission of advancing the Gospel finds its root in Scripture. Leaders seek God's revelation in the truths of Scripture, not the conventional human wisdom and understanding. The renewing of our minds comes only through the expenditure of efforts, and the investment of time to read, reflect and revel in what the Divine Author is saying. The amount of effort and time expended in seeking after God through Scripture yields a proportionate level of illumination to the answers that church leaders are seeking after.

Worship is Holistic: Body and Mind

What keeps church leaders on track and in shape for the long haul of shepherding the church is what we can offer to God – our worship of body and mind. Unless we understand and apply this fundamental truth to ourselves, we will not make any impact on the flock. To raise up the flock from spiritual infancy to maturity, it starts with church leaders who are examples of living sacrifices of worship unto the One (Christ) whose name we bear (Christians).

Blessings, on behalf of the Co-Labourers in the Singapore Baptist Convention,

Rev. Dr. Bobby Lee
Executive Director

Whom Shall I Send?

Andrew Tjang, Mission Director

*"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"
And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"
Isaiah 6:8 (NIV)*

Riau Mission

The day that Ashley, a mother of two children, responded to God's mission call during a Sunday altar call, the cancer in her breast (4th stage) took a turn for the worse. Hospital treatments had taken their toll on her physically, spiritually, and emotionally. To skeptics, it was mission impossible. Yet, in her humble obedience, she went for a mission exposure trip in July, trusting God all the way through her second mission trip in December 2017.

Ashley is still undergoing treatment after another operation in August. We thank and praise God for working so profoundly in Ashley's life. Let us pray for God's mercy, divine healing and strength for her on each new day.



Ashley (left) and Lilian (right)

En Guang

We praise God for our three brothers' and one sister's rededication to Christ during Sunday service on 30 July.

We celebrated our National Day on 9 August with our En Guang brothers and sisters with an outing and barbeque fellowship. Many had turned up, and we were delighted to have met ten new friends. Let us continue to pray for our Lord of the harvest to draw more churches and individuals to partner with us for the Gospel work to our migrant workers in Singapore.



*The Convention Mission Department welcomes all churches and individuals to make a contribution for our mission efforts.
Send your donations to our bank account at **UOB 1163121943** and message **Andrew Tjang** at **(65) 9824 1832** for an
acknowledgement of the donation. Thank you for your support!*