

THE LEADER'S “SECURITY”

(THE REWARD OF PLEASING GOD ABOVE PLEASING MAN)



- ◆ The **Cause** of Insecurity
- ◆ The **Consequences** of Insecurity
- ◆ The **Cure** of Insecurity

“Those who fear the Lord are secure.” (Proverbs 14:26)

Bill Kirk

“THE LEADER’S SECURITY”

*“To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us **accepted** in the beloved.”*
(Ephesians 1:6)

*“Those who fear the Lord are **secure**.”* (Proverbs 14:26)

Question: Why is being (and feeling) secure in the Lord so important as a leader?

Answer: Because (unless you are secure) you will live on an emotional treadmill!

(For Instance)

1. You will seek man’s approval more than God’s approval.
2. You will fear rejection and refuse to make tough decisions.
3. You will be susceptible (very susceptible) to manipulation by other people.
4. You will yield to intimidation that comes from self-centered (carnal) people.
5. You will live reactionary and go around in circles (instead of being principle-driven from your values).
6. You will reject people who are redemptive instead of punitive (and miss the wisdom in their correction).
7. You will live for the approval of others instead of with the approval of God.
8. You will do whatever it takes to make people happy with you!
9. You will twist people’s arms to get your way instead of love and serve them.
10. You will live desperate for affirmation because of an obsession with what others think of you.
11. You will (out of insecurity) compete and compare with others about kingdom things.
12. You will (out of insecurity) attempt to promote yourself, your ideas and your contributions.
13. You will become jealous when someone else is honored and praised.
14. You will tell others (often) about your successes.
15. You will hope that others praise you in return of your compliments.
16. You will desire to be known and acknowledged.
17. You will get angry (and build walls) when you don’t get the credit you feel you deserve.
18. You will not take the risk to tell people the hard facts (truth) about their attitude or behavior that dishonors God.
19. You will never measure success in the true biblical sense.
20. You will either copy or attack other ministries (constantly).
21. You will never raise up other leaders around you to attain their God given potential.

(Rod Loy in his book “Three Questions” says on page 64)

“When we live to please people, we lose ourselves, we lose the respect of the people around us, and we drift away from God.”

(And on pages 80, 81)

“When we get off the treadmill of pleasing people, we gain a wonderful sense of peace and security. We don’t have to look over our shoulders all the time to see if someone is frowning at us or beating us at our game. We delight in God’s love and we are glad when others succeed because our new security isn’t threatened.”

Question: How does a person overcome insecurity?

Answer: The only way I know is this:

- Know who you are; your strengths, weaknesses, gifting, what makes you tick and what ticks you off).
- Know whose you are; created in the image of God and totally accepted in His Beloved Son.
- Know where your example and strength lies:

“When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.” (1 Peter 2:23)

Fact: To the degree you live to please God above man, to that same degree you will not be destroyed or shaken by disapproval, ridicule or rejection!

Fact: Being overly obsessed with what others think is an open door to torment!

Fact: Manipulators have outstanding radar – they sense the people who crave approval and affirmation!

Fact: Craving affirmation will set you up to be easily manipulated by the threat of disapproval!

Question: Why is it so liberating to live to please God and not man?

(Two Reasons)

1. Longing to please God (above man) allows us to be convicted by the Holy Spirit and changed for His glory! (You welcome deep probings of the Spirit of God).
2. Longing to please God (above man) allows us to receive constructive criticism from others to grow even more. (You welcome the wisdom of experience around you).

(Remember)

- When Jesus corrects people with humble hearts, they love Him all the more!

Critical Discernment

Fact: Constructive critics are a gift from God to sharpen and strengthen us in the journey. They have love in their hearts and tears in their eyes. They speak the truth with a tender heart; they can be trusted and are full of grace.

Fact: Destructive critics seek to control, dominate, manipulate and serve their own ego by putting others down. They are narrow and angry at themselves – thus they are void of grace towards others.

Classic “Church Life” Manipulative Critics
(Say Things Like)

- **“Everybody is upset with you.”** (Which means: “I’ve convinced two friends to join me in my anger.”)
- **“People are talking about you.”** (Which means: “I’ve told some others my side of the story and enlisted their support.”)
- **“Nobody likes you”** (Which means: I don’t like you.”)
- **“I’m not trying to be critical.”** (Which means: “I don’t have to try – it comes naturally.”)

Fact: Many Christians have perfected the art of passive-aggressive communication.

Fact: Many couch their criticisms in “**groupthink**” and then “**globalize**” their anger beyond what is actually true.

(Discern The Difference Between)

Destructive Critics

(vs.)

Constructive Critics

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Talk to others about you..... | Speak directly to you |
| 2. Attack to exploit..... | Address to serve you |
| 3. Are abusive and demeaning..... | Are redemptive & helpful |
| 4. Stay at arm’s length..... | Are involved in the process |
| 5. Are harsh & punishing..... | Build, edify & lift up |
| 6. Delight in fault-finding..... | Delight in restoring |
| 7. Are emotionally charged..... | Are logical & reasonable |
| 8. Are vague in accusations..... | Are specific |
| 9. Exaggerate for effect..... | Speak unvarnished truth |
| 10. Are takers..... | Are givers |

(Are **unhappy** and bring **death**)..... (Are **joyful** & bring **life**)

In Conclusion: Remember Paul In Philippians 3:7, 8)

1. Paul could not be **threatened!**
 - He said, because I’ve suffered the loss of all things, you can’t take anything from me.
2. Paul could not be **bribed!**
 - He said because I have all things in Christ, you can’t offer me anything that I don’t already have.

In other words

- When we come to the place of counting all things loss for the sake of knowing Jesus (and)
- When we come to the place of understanding that we have everything we need to be content in Jesus, we have **true security** – and cannot be threatened, bribed, manipulated or intimidated!!!

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Bill Kirk