

PERSONAL COVENANT

I AM STANDING on the shoulders of leaders who have gone before me. They were not perfect, and neither am I. They led based on what they had been taught, and the Lord, by his grace and kindness, advanced his kingdom through them.

I CONFESS my own failings as a leader before my Lord Jesus.

I HUMBLY COMMIT myself in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit to be more like Jesus and develop others who will also do the same. May God, by his grace and mercy, help me to be faithful to this covenant.

Amen.

Joining with leaders around the world, I make this my personal covenant.

Signed _____

Date _____

Witness _____

Witness _____



Leaders Covenant and Study Guide

WELCOME TO THE LEADER'S COVENANT. THIS COVENANT WAS DEVELOPED FOR THE LAUSANNE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP AS A RESOURCE FOR LAUSANNE'S CAPE TOWN 2010 CONGRESS ON WORLD EVANGELIZATION. IN THE "SPIRIT OF LAUSANNE," OUR GOAL IS TO MAKE THIS AVAILABLE TO YOU AND TO YOUR FELLOW LEADERS IN THE KINGDOM.



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Jesus and the Apostles had much to teach about leaders in His Kingdom.

WHAT THEY DO

HOW THEY RELATE TO PEOPLE

HOW THEY VIEW THEMSELVES

WHAT ARE APPROPRIATE MOTIVES

WHAT THEY TEACH BY THEIR WORDS AND ACTIONS.

In contrast, Jesus and the Apostles also warned about false leaders. In almost every letter in the New Testament false leaders are identified or described. So this topic is not to be taken lightly.

The Leader's Covenant was developed to simply state these facts for leaders around the world today. We encourage you to read the Covenant and sign it in the presence of some of your trusted colleagues or friends. Then pass it on to others.

There is no cost to you for this. Our burden and vision is that leaders in the Kingdom will lead and develop other leaders to be more like Jesus.

You may find it helpful to spend devotional time going through the Scriptural references. We encourage you to distribute this to others. Permission granted to distribute this Leader's Covenant without modification. The Leader's Covenant is built on the foundation of the Lausanne Covenant, 1974. This Leader's Covenant was developed for the Lausanne Leadership Development Working Group as a resource for Cape Town 2010 Congress on World Evangelization.

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INTRODUCTION

I praise God who called me to serve Jesus Christ as a leader among his people. With all my heart I want to follow my Lord and leader, Jesus, in the way he lived, led and developed people. I affirm that I want to grow in Christlikeness as a leader and help others in my sphere of influence do the same. By his grace I commit myself to be and lead more like Christ.

(Note: A "leader" in this Covenant could be a pastor, apostle, elder, bishop, deacon, evangelist, teacher, missionary, parachurch worker, prophet, marketplace leader, small group leader, educator, house church leader or anyone who wants to lead like Jesus. This includes men and women, young and old, vocational ministry workers and 'laity'.)

Leaders Covenant Study Guide

Here are some suggestions concerning how to use this tool:

Be sure to make consistent prayer a key part of the process. Only the Holy Spirit can produce life change; we must depend on Him.

When meeting with a person using the Leader's Covenant, work with the person and/or small group focusing on 4 key questions for each of the 10 statements.

Create an actual tracking document to record the necessary set of steps with measureable actions and specific timelines.

1. I AM ACCOUNTABLE TO JESUS

I am responsible to Christ my Lord. He will evaluate and reward me. I have been called to a life of service, joy and sacrifice for my Lord, his kingdom and his people. I admire leaders around the world who make significant sacrifices, even giving their lives for the sake of my Lord. I take comfort that God rewards those who serve and sacrifice for him and his people. I grieve that some leaders act as though Jesus has nothing to say about their ministry, the way they treat people or the way they lead. They also do things to be noticed publicly and in so doing, have their temporal reward. Yet I know that my Father, who sees in secret, honors and rewards those who do the right thing even if no one sees it. I humbly ask for courage, boldness and faith to be pleasing to my Lord in the way I lead.

(Matt. 6:1-6; Matt. 16:24-27; Luke 18:28-30; John 5:22-23; 1 Cor. 3:10-15; 1 Cor. 4:5; 2 Cor. 4:11-18; 2 Cor. 5:9-10; 2 Cor. 10:12-18; 2 Tim. 4:1-8)

Leaders Covenant Tool

1. What is the statement saying that is important for me to hear at this stage of my life and ministry? (Come to grips with the meaning of the statement. Don't rush.)

2. In what ways is my life reflecting positive growth as I reflect on the statement? (Be encouraging.)

3. What are 1-2 key ways in which my life does not reflect the commitments expressed in the statement? (Focus clearly on some areas for improvement and/or growth.)

4. What are the 1-2 most important action steps (for each goal) that you could take as we work together to bring progress in your life and ministry toward fulfilling the commitment more completely? (Write specific mentoring steps to take to address the challenges for improvement.)

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2. I WILL LIVE LIKE JESUS

Christ-like character is required for leadership, and maintained by walking in Jesus' ways. I want to avoid being like the Pharisees of Jesus' day, who gave significant attention to external indicators of their leadership roles but whose hearts and character were far away from the Father. I acknowledge that in our day, sexual temptations are all around, yet our Lord calls us to live a life of purity and godliness in thought and action. I grieve that sometimes leaders do not act with integrity or speak truthfully with those they seek to serve. I am saddened that leaders sometimes act out of envy or jealousy toward other leaders or ministries and slander them or work to cause and maintain divisions. I desire to be more like Jesus from the inside out and to reflect his character in heart and life.

(Matt. 23:23-28; John 15:1-5; Phil. 1:15-17; Phil. 3:17-19; 1 Thess. 2:1-12; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 2:11-15; 2 Peter 3:11-14; 1 John 2:6)

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3. I WILL SERVE JESUS

Jesus came preaching the kingdom of God – the rule and reign of God in the hearts and lives of his people. By contrast, human nature presses leaders toward building their own “kingdoms” or “empires”. I am saddened that some leaders seek glory and accolades from people and in so doing replace a focus on Jesus with a focus on themselves. I affirm that my mission is to build Jesus’ rule and reign in the hearts of his people. I also acknowledge that in serving Jesus, I am called to serve and nourish my family in a godly manner. I want to serve Jesus with all my heart

(Matt. 5:1-12; Acts 28:30-31; 2 Cor. 4:1-2; Phil. 2:9-13; 1 Tim. 3:1-5; 2 Peter 2:1-3; 3 John 9- 11)

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4. I WILL LEAD LIKE JESUS

When our Lord came to earth, he modeled and taught what he wanted leaders in his kingdom to be and do. He taught that we must operate in humility and meekness, take up our cross daily, and treat people with grace and gentleness. He did not force his authority on anyone. Jesus used his positional authority to guide, bless and benefit those he led. He calls us to lead in the same way. Many leaders use their positional authority to “lord it over” people and instead use the world’s way of power leadership practices and values. I am saddened that some leaders, even while speaking accurate doctrine, do not live as Christ-like leaders. Their actions distort Christ’s teaching on leadership, confusing those they are called to serve. I humbly ask for a heart to lead like Jesus.

(Matt. 18:1-4; Matt. 23:1-12; Mark 10:42-45; 2 Cor. 11:12-21; 2 Tim. 3:1-13; Heb. 1:1-2; 1 Peter 5:1-5)

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5. I WILL DEVELOP LEADERS

One of Jesus' top priorities was to develop leaders. He did not mass produce leaders but intentionally focused on a small number of them. I affirm that developing leaders as Jesus did calls me to build close, personal relationships with promising men and women, and to invest time in mentoring them. I affirm that the heart cry from many younger leaders around the world is for a spiritual mentor. I also acknowledge my calling to equip saints for ministry and to release them to serve as the Holy Spirit directs. I am aware that many leaders ignore this priority. I ask for grace and insight to intentionally equip saints and strengthen the hearts and lives of younger leaders.

(Matt. 4:18-22; Matt. 28:16-20; Luke 6:12-16; John 17:6-19; Acts 11:22-26; Acts 15:39-16:5; Eph. 4:11- 16; Phil. 2:19-30; 2 Timothy)

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6. I WILL SEEK HIS FACE

Our Lord esteems and honors those who walk in humility and dependence on him and who seek his face in fellowship and communion. Jesus gave us a pattern of regularly spending time alone with the Father to seek his heart and commune with him in prayer. He did this even in the midst of many demands, pressures and even harsh circumstances. Following Jesus' model, I want to seek him regularly in personal communion and prayer. I know this will please him and enable me to more align myself with him, his ways and his will. I also want to live within my human limits by taking regular times of rest (Sabbath) to restore my soul. I know this will mean withdrawing from the pressures of my world for periods of time. My heart is to serve him in faithfulness all my days until he takes me home or returns in his glory. By his grace I want to seek his face.

(Isa. 66:1-2; Matt. 14:23; Matt. 26:36-39; Mark 1:35-39; Luke 4:42-43; Luke 5:16; Phil. 4:5-7; 1 Peter 5:6-8)

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7. I WILL SEEK SPIRITUAL FRUIT

I am chosen to bear fruit. Jesus taught and modeled that spiritual fruit comes from “abiding in him”. I acknowledge that I cannot manipulate spiritual results or spiritual changes in the lives of people by means of my human wisdom or self-generated pressures. My role is to faithfully give myself to people through my gifts and calling and leave the results to God. My heart is to follow Jesus in his ways, walk in the Spirit and abide in him so that he works through me to bear much fruit for his glory.

(Matt. 7:15-20; Matt. 16:21-23; John 15:1-11; 1 Cor. 3:5-9; 2 Cor. 1:12; 1 Tim. 4:6-16; 1 John 2:3-6)

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8. I WILL COLLABORATE

God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are One, with each Person fulfilling unique roles, yet acting in perfect harmony. Their collaborative leadership operates in the context of mutual submission yet each with appropriate authority for their roles and functions. I want to follow collaborative leadership modeled by the Trinity as the standard for leaders. I ask for grace to grow in serving and collaborating harmoniously with my fellow leaders.

(Matt. 28:16-20; John 5:22-23; John 16:13-15; John 17:21; Acts 13:1-3; Rm. 8:14-17)

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10. I WILL USE WINESKINS TO SERVE

Systems and organization (“wineskins”) are aspects of stewardship for churches and ministries. I am stunned that in Jesus’ day the Pharisees and Scribes opposed Jesus by using their wineskins of traditions, organization, laws, credentials and theology against him. I am saddened that many leaders are similarly tempted and often succumb to drawing people’s allegiance to themselves, their organization, methods, materials or theological systems rather than to Christ. I observe that sometimes leaders want to be the ones in charge and so they create hierarchies, positions and titles to enforce their control and dominance. It is easy to “lord it over” or abuse people by imposing plans, vision or organizational mandates on people. I long to purify myself and to serve my King in holiness and gentleness and draw those I serve into a closer walk with him.

(Matt. 23:13-33; John 11:47-48, 53; Acts 20:18-35; Phil. 2:19-21; James 4:13-16; 1 Peter 5:2-3; 3 John 9-11)

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