

NCD PATHWAY 8 – Empowering Leadership Part 2

In part 1 of Empowering leadership we looked at the first two themes of leaders enjoying their ministry and how that has an impact all those around them. We also looked at the perceived “overworked” leaders and becoming more intimate with our Spiritual gifting. In part 2 we will look at the last 3 themes that relate to Empowering Leadership.

The questions in the survey related to Empowering Leadership are defined as “the degree to which the organisational structure of the church actively contributes to the healthy growth of the church”. The higher the question’s result, the greater its contribution to the effectiveness of the structures.

As we look at the questions related to Empowering Leadership in the survey, the questions can be grouped into 5 main themes and we will look at the first two this month.

1. Leaders empower more by enjoying their job
2. Leaders empower by not holding ministry to themselves . . . for any reason
3. Proactively “equipping the saints for the works of service”
4. “Tell ‘em what you’re going to tell ‘em; tell ‘em; and tell ‘em what you told ‘em”
5. Taking the church into the future

3. Proactively “equipping the saints for the works of service”

Q 17 – I know that someone in our church will hold me accountable for meeting the commitments I make

Q20 – Our leaders actively seek to remove barriers that limit my ministry

Q38 – Many people in our church are given the opportunity to actively participate in our worship services

The Body grows if the parts of the body are growing. To grow the church you have to grow the people. This is a step beyond the previous point: proactively equipping people for the work of ministry is at the heart of empowering leadership.

Interestingly, we often encounter leaders who confuse delegation (which is important) with equipping. Delegation is often task-oriented not people-oriented and focused on the leader. Equipping is focused on everyone contributing to church life in such a way that they are continuing to grow to spiritual maturity.

The questions above have strong links to a multitude of questions in Gift-based Ministry and Effective Structures, reflecting the importance of this growth principle from Ephesians 4:11-13.

4. “Tell ‘em what you’re going to tell ‘em; tell ‘em; and tell ‘em what you told ‘em”

Q 31 – Our leaders are good at explaining things

Ralph Neighbour, of cell church fame said, that if you want your people to “get it” you have to communicate the same message six times. That’s presuming you are an effective communicator in the first place. It is vital for leaders to develop and hone communication skills to avoid activity in the church based on ignorance, confusion, misunderstanding and incorrect assumptions.

Communication is not about what is said but what is heard. How good is communication in your church? It plays a vital role in empowering.

5. Taking the church into the future

Q 45 – Our leaders clearly believe that God wants our church to grow

Q22 – Our leaders are clearly concerned for people who do not know Jesus Christ

When it comes to these questions there is not much to say. If you have leaders who do not intrinsically understand why these questions are important for empowering people in a Christian church or see it as part of achieving a sustainable healthy growth – you may need new leaders!

Loving Him starts with surrendering to His plan for your life. That's what it means to make Him Lord. The nature of God is so vast and complex that no human being can fully know everything there is to know about Him, but life should be about continually seeking Him, learning more about Him and enjoying His fellowship.

And He said, "That you love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and muscle and intelligence – and that you love your neighbour as well as you do yourself." Luke 10:27 (The Message)