

What Is Good For The Goose Is Good For The Church!

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Do you know which geese in the classic 'V' formation do all the honking? Do you know why? Read on for these pressing answers and more.

There are few things more important in a congregation than having committed, qualified, zealous, and willing leaders. We often hear great messages preached on what it takes to lead the church, and that is fantastic. We need this preaching and we need men that listen and step up and become committed to living their lives in such a way that they can be effective leaders in their congregations. Some congregations get a bit overzealous in their quest to install qualified men as leaders however. Never is someone who's forced into leadership going to be effective in his post, nor is a man who is leading by default because no one else is there or no one else will do the job. Look at the men who followed Gideon in Judges 7. In Judges 6:35, Gideon sent messengers through the land, "I need men ready to fight," called Gideon. 32,000 volunteered. But that was too many, in case they thought they had won the battle by their own hands, so all those afraid to enter the battle were dismissed. 10,000 remained. Too many still, said God. So a test was set to see which men were truly alert and ready for action at every moment. The final count of those truly prepared? 300. These men defeated an entire army because they were:

- 1) Willing- Remember, all volunteered.
- 2) Alert - Only the truly ready went to war.
- 3) Equipped- Strange equipment? Sure (if someone sent me into an odds-stacked-against-me-fight with a pitcher, a trumpet, and a torch, I would probably have them committed), but it was just what was needed.
- 4) Obedient- Strange as it sounded they stuck to Gideon's plan.
- 5) Steadfast- With these fine characteristics, when the moment of truth

came, 'every man stood in his place' (Judges 7:21).

I'm sure this was not the last of these men's great triumphs. In fact, when they returned home, I'm sure they were able to accomplish great things in their communities. Was it because they were such great leaders? Of course, but also because they had at least 31,700 followers that had preceded them home!

That's right followers, you are an integral part of every function of the church and don't you forget it for a moment. S. I. McMillen, in his book, *None of These Diseases*, tells a story of a young woman who wanted to go to college, but her heart sank when she read the question on the application blank that asked, "Are you a leader?" Being both honest and conscientious, she wrote, "No," and returned the application, expecting the worst. To her surprise, she received this letter from the college: "Dear Applicant: A study of the application forms reveals that this year our college will have 1,452 new leaders. We are accepting you because we feel it is imperative that they have at least one follower."

If you are not cut out to be a leader, be honest about it. If you take the lead and are not Willing, Alert, Obedient, Equipped, and Steadfast as a leader then you will do the church more harm than good. It is just as important and honorable to be a follower, as long as you are a GOOD follower. I think some get dejected and down, feeling that they aren't doing anything for the church if they aren't leading in some way, but where would the shepherd be if all the sheep suddenly enrolled in a Zig Ziglar leadership class? Following Bo Peep to the unemployment line I suppose. So how well do you follow?

Now I will be the first to tell you that geese are disgusting creatures up close. Sure they're pretty, but, as my good brother Wellman (who has a pond by his home) eloquently laments, "They're flying cows!" Needless to say he has ways of making them skedaddle and this is when we can learn from them, while they are in flight. I understand that geese do not fly in their classic formation because they just like the letter 'V'.... You see, the geese are all flapping away and as they do, the displaced air creates an up-lift behind them so that in the back of the formation, it takes 70% less exertion to stay aloft than it does for the goose at the point. The lead goose falls back every now and then and some of the others take turns at the front to keep one leader from being completely exhausted.

Now that is all pretty nifty. But which geese make all of the noise? I understand that the geese in the very back of the form do all that lovely honking. Why? Well we don't know for sure, but the working theory is

that they are simply honking encouragement to those in front and letting them know, "We're behind you all the way."

So, valiant follower, are you still thinking you're not important to your congregation? Wherever you are in the formation of the flock of believers, you have an important job. You have to create an uplift to make it easier for those that come in behind. "But preacher, I don't do anything at all that's important... if I were one of your geese, I'd be in the very back for sure, how is that important?"

Well gosling, whether bond or free, female goose or male gander, Jew or Greek, born leader or natural follower... anyone can honk, and you have no idea how important that is to the geese at the front.

Pray for those honkin' Christians everywhere. Keep up the good work. – Justin Murdock

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