

Personal Pitfalls of Leadership

Detailed Outline

Part 3 of 3

VII. Avoiding the Reality of Temptations

A. Temptations are common and temptations are pervasive.

1. These can be manifest in many ways.
 - a) Sexual temptation - This is real and pervasive
 - b) Temptation of power and control – The need for power and control over people
 - c) Temptation of popularity and self-promotion
 - d) Temptation of materialism – The need to impress people with money
2. Some of these temptations are subtle and church leaders sometimes are unaware that they have fallen for them.

B. We must be wise in our vulnerability when dealing with temptations.

1. We sometimes have ongoing temptations that we have not shared with anyone.
2. Keeping a secret weakness only increases vulnerability to sin. It is important therefore in turn to be vulnerable to an accountability partner who we can trust and will pray with us.
3. Either way, we have to be wise in vulnerability. We don't open up to any and everybody.
4. Vulnerability is a trust and a must. This is because when we don't share our temptations, we are setting ourselves for failure and addictions.

C. Getting into addiction is gradual.

1. When we lack emotional intimacy, something that we all crave, we run to an addiction.
2. Our intent is that the addiction will provide the emotional intimacy we desire. The truth however, is that it never does.
3. I have found that the real issue is never the addiction but something else. It is important to get to what is really going on in the hearts of people or in our hearts.

That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship [is] with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full. (1 John 1:3–4 KJV)

4. There is fellowship going on—the Father and you, Jesus and you.
5. There is also the sharing with each other. It is when this cycle of sharing occurs that joy occurs in the Christian's life.
6. When you are not sharing with the Father and with each other, that is when addictions come knocking. Be careful about the lack of intimacy.
7. Read the book *True Community* by Jerry Bridges for more on this.

VIII. Avoiding the Discipline of the Clock

Spending too much time with the church activities and not with our families

A. Your legacy is with your family and kids.

1. They are the ones you are called to impact first.
2. Not spending time with the family is usually the top complaint among spouses.
3. You might even have to chart yourself so that you don't forget to allocate time for your wife and family.

B. Need for a diversion

1. It is an activity that breaks the rhythm. It may be as simple as chopping or stacking wood.
2. Be on an exercise program. God has made you a physical being and it is important that we are available to God for His glory.

IX. Avoiding the Counsel of Our Wives

A. Part of our fallenness

1. All men are afraid to listen to our wives.
2. We don't listen because we are afraid they will control us.
3. Illustration: I asked the girls in my class, "How many of you girls will want a husband who is willing to share what they are going through - their depressions, their struggles?" Every girl said that's the type of man they want.
4. Sharing their emotions and hurts with their wives is not easy for men.

B. Stop to listen

1. As elders it is easy for us to tell people what to do but it takes a man to listen.
2. Our ministry is a ministry of listening.
3. God has given us wives so that we will have wisdom and we must cherish that.

Conclusion

We need to avoid the pitfalls of:

- Avoiding the reality of temptations
- Avoiding the discipline of the clock
- Avoiding the counsel of our wives