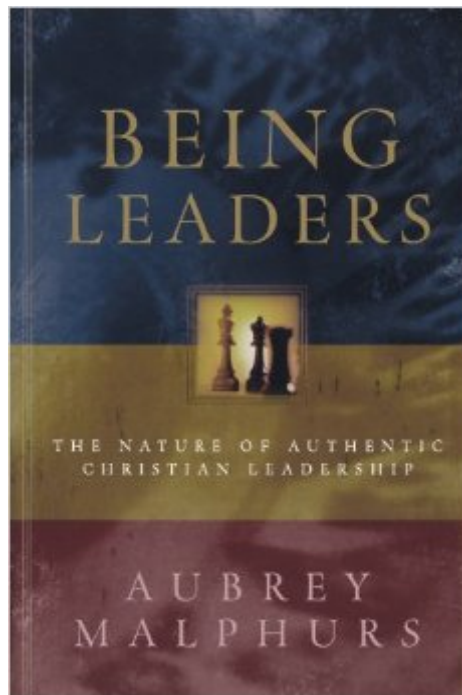




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Being Leaders: The Nature Of Authentic Christian Leadership



Synopsis

What makes a leader a Christian leader? Too many churches and parachurch groups operate under secular leadership principles and strategies without considering what Scripture teaches. In this accessible and comprehensive book, leadership expert Aubrey Malphurs articulates a working definition of Christian leadership based on the Bible and his own extensive research. Malphurs begins by defining a uniquely Christian leader from the inside out, from godly character and commitment to pure motives and a servant attitude. He examines the leaders of the first-century church and then discusses qualities such as credibility, capability, and influence that are essential for successful leadership. Each chapter contains helpful questions for reflection and discussion. The appendix includes numerous audits to help readers evaluate themselves on various leadership components. Being Leaders is the first book of a two-part series on leadership. The companion book will address the how-to of building leaders.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

What are the distinctive characteristics of Christian leaders? Too many churches and parachurch groups are blindly operating under secular leadership principles and strategies. Concerned to counter this drift, leadership expert Aubrey Malphurs 1) articulates a working definition of a Christian leader and leadership based on Scripture and his own extensive research, and 2) challenges you to define and develop leadership in your ministry. Malphurs then describes in detail the specific characteristics of leaders, such as commitment to Christ, caring, trustworthiness, a servant attitude,

and having followers. Each chapter ends with helpful questions for reflection and discussion. Included in the appendices are several inventories that will help you assess your strengths and weaknesses in leadership as well as your leadership style, ideal ministry circumstances, and much more. Aubrey Malphurs is professor of pastoral ministries at Dallas Theological Seminary. A nationally recognized expert on leadership issues, he is the author of a dozen books and the president of The Malphurs Group (www.malphursgroup.com), a training and consulting organization.

Aubrey Malphurs is professor of pastoral ministries at Dallas Theological Seminary in Texas. The author of a dozen books, he is also the president of The Malphurs Group, a training and consulting organization.

Malphurs does a great job in this book. Every pastor and parachurch leader would benefit from reading his insights and developing their leadership training accordingly. If you are looking for the latest fad- this is not the title for you, just time tested, proven through experience, biblical insight from a man who has lived it and observed it. What I like most from the book is the focus on what Jesus Christ said, and showed on leadership while training his disciples. This book is a valuable addition to any leadership volumes you have in your collection.

I am a Minister in Training & we had to order this book for a online class. It is wonderful; beyond my expectations learning some things about myself.

This book is highly recommended to all who pursue a clear image of what Leadership is. Pastors and leaders in the church will benefit from it tremendously! It is simple, clear, compact and compelling. If you are looking for a good book to read about leadership in the church, this is an excellent book.

There are definitely better leadership books out there

Malphurs puts together one of the most complete books on leadership there is. He is extremely practical and straight forward and skips most of the theoretical ideals that only exist in perfect worlds. He breaks down leadership into 8 different elements and works with the nuts and bolts of each characteristic to help the leader determine who he is, what his vision is, how to accomplish it, and what God may be calling him to. Great book! Read more at www.jryanherrington.net

Great book on leadership. And a wealth of information.

Good book for helping pastors understand who they are as leaders and what type of church fits their leadership style.

Purpose of the Book Malphurs recognized that many today are talking about the importance of leaders and leadership, but few have adequately marked out what leadership is and what leaders do. Further complicating the issue is the distinction between secular and sacred leaders. Thus, in the eight chapters of *Being Leaders*, Malphurs provided eight characteristics that comprise his definition of an authentic Christian leader in today's world. Malphurs addressed the topic of Christian leadership from a biblical perspective informed and clarified by his professional research. Malphurs further hoped that by offering his opinions he would provoke Christian leaders to thoughtfully consider their own definition and philosophy of leadership.

Organization and Content Malphurs began by clarifying his definition of a Christian leader and Christian leadership. Specifically, "Christian leaders are servants with the credibility and capabilities to influence people in a particular context to pursue their God-given direction" (10). Similarly, "Christian leadership is the process whereby servants use their credibility and capability to influence people in a particular context to pursue their God-given direction" (10). Malphurs's definitions may lack in pithiness, but they are strong in substance. The flow of the book fleshes out his definitions.

In chapter 1, Malphur's discussed his eight characteristics of Christian leadership and how those characteristics were evident in first-century Christian leaders. A Christian leader is fundamentally a committed follower of Jesus Christ, guided and empowered by God, serving God's purposes in the church, and doing it all with a Christ-like character and attitude. In chapter 2, Malphurs examined the role of leaders (specifically pastoral leader) as shepherd and servant. Four core values make up a servant leader's heart: humility, service, others-centered, and love. As a servant, the leader equips members to pursue their God-given purposes. Chapter 3 addressed the leader's need for credibility and trustworthiness. Malphurs offered eight ingredients that build leadership credibility and five steps for regaining lost credibility. Chapter 4 dealt with the leader's capabilities. The leader's capabilities are "his or her God-given and God-directed special abilities for ministry" (73). They include the leader's spiritual and natural giftedness, passions, temperament, knowledge, skills, and emotions. Malphurs asserted that leaders are both born and made. Given the right context a "born leader" or "made leader" can accomplish God's purposes (75). Leadership is about influence. In chapter 5, Malphurs

examined the varied ways leaders influence others to follow. Malphurs stated, "Every leader has a style of influence that has an impact on people, so it's important that leaders correctly perceive how they influence their followers" (93). Thanks to the Leadership Style Inventory (appendix M), this reviewer realizes his predominant style is "analytical." The analytical style does not appeal to some followers; therefore understanding followers and their motivations is an essential skill (chapter 6). Malphurs warned would-be leaders to get used to the fact that some people will never be good followers, or else get another job (129). Chapters 7 and 8 focused on the leader's context and task. Malphurs opined that the leader's context is one of the most neglected areas of leadership (132). A great leader in one ministry context would not be as great (and can even fail) in a different context. Leaders, therefore, need a firm understanding of their leadership philosophy and the sensitivities of those led. Any incompatibilities require adjustment from the leader or the context so the task of leadership can remain unhindered. The task of ministry leadership, according to Malphurs, is to "influence the followers to pursue their God-given direction" (158). Christian leadership is about helping followers fulfill God's purposes, not the leader's purposes. Evaluation Malphurs achieved his two-fold purpose. He articulated and clarified a working definition of Christian leaders and leadership. Second, the reader is provoked to wrestle with Malphurs's concepts for the purpose of understanding his or her own philosophy of leadership. Malphurs's weakness is that any definition of leaders and leadership is self-limiting. By saying what it is (when other leadership theorists struggle with the topic) he excludes other potential or unrecognized aspects of leadership. Malphurs also was given to enumerating "elements," "principles," and "categories" for his main and sub points. Again, by doing so, Malphurs excludes other possible elements, principles, or categories. The appendices provided helpful tools and insights for Christian leaders, especially pastors. The most salient point Malphurs made appeared in appendix C ("Is Pastoral Care the Primary Role of the Pastor"). He stated that the primary job of a shepherd is not just to love, but to lead (176). He refuted the popular notion that being a shepherd of God's people implies focusing on the ministry of pastoral care. While pastoral care should not be neglected, the biblical truth is that shepherds primarily lead. The Leadership Style Inventory (appendix M) was very beneficial in helping this reviewer understand his style.

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