



Empowering Leaders: Part 1

Leadership's most basic definition is **influence**, and God has given you a group of people to influence.

One of the biggest challenges for leaders is pushing through certain growth barriers to accomplish the vision that God has given you.

Two thoughts as we begin to unpack this topic of empowering leaders:

- 1. Empowering leaders is a non-negotiable IF you are leading something and expect it to grow.**
- 2. A leader's effectiveness is measured by the decreasing dependency of his or her followers.**

The greatest thing Jesus ever did as a *leader* was to train and empower His disciples to do ministry in His absence.

One of the biggest challenges to empowering leaders is building an organization that does not rely on you for its survival.

What are some reasons why someone might choose not to empower leaders?

- Insecurity
- Unclear vision
- Perceived lack of leaders
- Not enough work to go around
- Unrealistic expectations about work quality

“As we look into the next century, leaders will be those who empower others.”
- Bill Gates

Empowerment occurs when an employee is given the freedom, power, trust, autonomy, and encouragement to carry out job-related tasks.

The opposite of empowerment is micro management.

Practical Steps to Empowering Leaders

- 1. Identify what only you can do.**
- 2. Empowerment is chaos apart from clear vision.**
 - Never give power to those who don't share your values.
- 3. Use the people God has brought to you.**
 - Be faithful with who's there and He will bring more.
- 4. Encourage safe failure.**
- 5. Get out of the way.**

Effective leaders have the foresight and vision to inspire others to want to lead, the will to teach them to lead, and the faith and courage to allow them to lead.

Discussion Questions

1. Am I leading others toward dependency on myself or am I leading them toward independence?
2. If I were gone tomorrow, would the mission of our organization continue to move forward?
3. Am I properly stewarding the volunteer leaders God has given me?
4. What are some reasons I haven't been empowering leaders?