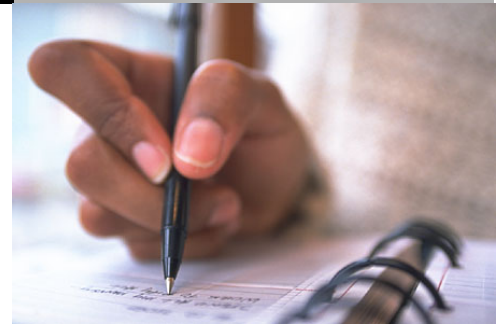
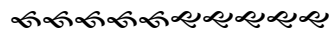


## Leading with a Christ-like Attitude

Keynote Presentation – Kathie Wendland



### Opening Prayer – *Excerpts from Philippians 1:2-11*

#### Introduction –

Brief listing of primary resources used and why it's important to make note of them

Outline:

- **Understanding a Christ-like attitude in light of the theology of the cross –**  
*Mark 8:31-38*
- **Living with a Christ-like attitude –** *Philippians 1:27-2:4*
- **Leading with a Christ-like attitude –** *Philippians 2:12-18, 3:1-4:1*

### I. Understanding a Christ-like attitude in light of the theology of the cross

After Jesus explained to his disciples that in order for his purpose on earth to be fulfilled ***“the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again,”*** Peter ***“rebuked”*** him. Jesus' answer to Peter was, ***“Get behind me, Satan! ...You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.”***

Jesus then called the crowd to join the disciples and said to all of them, ***“If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it.”*** (from Mark 8:31-38)

Matthew 10:38, 16:24

Luke 9:23, 14:27

John 12:23-27

Isaiah 58

#### 1. What does it mean to deny myself/lose my life?

Illustration:

*It's not about me or about what this world thinks of me!!! It's not even about me thinking well of myself ☺*

3. What does it mean to **take up my cross and follow Jesus/lose my life for the gospel to save it?**

Illustration:

*It's about doing what needs to be done without an eye on the earthly result*

Some common applications

As part of our vocation

**Definition:** “The theology of the cross, therefore, is that study of the Word of God that looks for the connection between his cross and ours. *It examines our cross as that necessary gift of God under which we enter finally into the kingdom of glory when God determines that the time for cross bearing has ended and the time for crown wearing has come.* In heaven we no longer bear the cross because *in heaven the sinful self has finally been completely set aside and Christ has become all in all.*”

Prof. Deutschlander (*Emphasis mine – KW*)

## II. Living with a Christ-like attitude – *Philippians 1:19–2:4, 3:7-14*

### Looking to Jesus – *Philippians 2:5-11*

“...did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped” = **self-awareness**

“...taking the form of a servant” = **service**

“...being born in the likeness of men” = **fellowship**

“...And being found in human form” = **humility**

“...he humbled himself and became obedient” = **obedience**

“...unto death, even death on a cross” = **patience in suffering**

“Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, (those) in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” = **exaltation**

**Application for each and every one of us** – *Philippians 1:19–2:4, 3:7-11*

**Self-awareness** – *Philippians 2:6*

***“...did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,”***

Who am I really? Gifts from/in Christ – therefore...

**Service** – *Philippians 1:27,28*

***“...taking the form of a servant,”***

The proof is in the pudding! Servant-hood may literally be under a cross or another form of death. The student is not above his master.

**Fellowship** – *Philippians 1:27,28*

***“...being born in the likeness of men.”***

Christ became one with us – We as his followers are “as one soul”...united in heart and mind with all of Christendom – to communicate Christ and the essence of the LORD God (glorify him) accurately to the outside world.

**Humility** – *Philippians 2:3,4*

***“...And being found in human form...”***

If Jesus, true God himself, chose to take on the human form of the created being for the sake of those souls, what does that say to us as those created redeemed souls for whom he died? God joined us in order to serve our needs.

The example from Christ is that I look up to, not down on, those I serve. I am to be “a little Christ” for others, exalting them just as Christ exalted me by his sacrifice for me.

**Obedience** – *Philippians 2:3,4, 3:7*

***“...he humbled himself and became obedient...”***

Humbling recognizes the supremacy of the LORD God in all aspects of my being. I trust that THE “Father Knows Best” in all circumstances – even in my crosses – so I obey him even when it doesn't make sense to me, or it will cost me.

**Patience in suffering** – *Philippians 1:29*

***“...unto death, even death on a cross.”***

This includes everything – the conflict, ridicule, and rejection for doing things God’s way. Dying to self may forfeit income, career ladder, peer respect, and all that self calls life. The more the responsibility the LORD has given you, the more you have opportunity to “give it up” for him. ☺

**Exaltation** – *Philippians 1:19-21, 3:12-14*

***“Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name...”***

He who never sinned had done all God had asked. After the cross came the exaltation and glory. Our confidence is in this same Jesus who promised that where he is, there we will also be; that he’s preparing a place for us by his side in the mansions of heaven. After the cross comes the crown.

**Our purpose** – *Philippians 2:10,11*

***“...that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, (those) in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ in Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”***

In carrying out the Father’s plan, Jesus glorified God the Father. We, and all who trust in Jesus and his promises, share in this purpose and glory.

**III. Leading with a Christ-like attitude** – *Philippians 2:12-18, 3:1–4:1*

What does the term “leadership” mean anyway?

**4. The secular world has developed its own definitions**

- “formal” and “informal” leadership
- “dictatorship” or “paternalism” style
- “laissez faire” style
- “outcome-based goals and objectives,” “cost effective outcomes,” and “cost benefit ratios”

While there are beneficial elements in all of the secular concepts and paradigms, the worldly principles on which they are built inevitably open the door to self-serving misuse and abuse by the sinful humans implementing them.

## 2. **Scripture presents the concepts of leadership very differently!**

*Philippians 2:12-18, 3:1-4:1*

- While there are a number of Greek words used for leadership in Scripture, it always includes being entrusted with authority and responsibility. It is always God who gives this authority. God **never intended such authority to be taken by someone for their own purposes**. Even to Jesus, as true man, authority was given (*Matthew 28:18; John 5:26,27*). When Scripture is referring to this concept of leadership there is also an assumed responsibility to lovingly discipline those “under” you for their own benefit.
- **One of the characteristics of this Scriptural leadership is an awareness of the importance of giving encouragement.** The Greek word for this encouragement is ‘paraclete’ (counselor, encourager). In John 14:16, it is used to describe the encouragement given both by Jesus and the Holy Spirit. We see Jesus carrying out just that kind of work as a paraclete when he walks beside the disciples on the road to Emmaus. Paul’s co-worker Barnabas (son of encouragement) was one who possessed this spiritual gift in rich measure.
- **In Scripture, the beautiful concept of imitating our God as an encourager (paraclete) can also stand on its own**, i.e. giving encouragement, being an encourager is also used when there is no indication of serving in a position in which authority has also been entrusted. Such encouragement is to be shared by God’s people in every direction at every opportunity, especially by those on whom the Spirit has poured out a rich measure of the gift of encouraging (*Romans 12:8*). While this gift of “stand alone” encouraging is given, as is true of all gifts of the Spirit, to both men and women it seems to have been given in rich measure to women and offers many opportunities to exert godly influence.
- Of note, when Scripture illustrates this encouraging style of influencing others there isn’t a responsibility for disciplining attached to it.

A couple of illustrations –

### 3. Confusion abounds when secular paradigms and Scriptural teaching about leadership are co-mingled.

- When Scripture uses leadership terminology, it is speaking of serving with Christ-like love in a position in which God has asked someone to exercise authority for the benefit of those under the leader's care. Giving godly encouragement is part of such authoritative leadership. Yet Scripture also speaks of such godly encouragement and influence being exercised *by all Christians* wherever he gives the opportunity even where no specific authority has been given.
- The world confuses the issue for us since it tends to use leadership terminology *both* for those exercising authority *and* for those who are encouraging or influencing others even where no clear authority has been given. In other words, *not everything the world calls leadership would fall under what Scripture calls leadership.*

### 4. Why is it important to keep this difference in view?

- First, if we assumed that we needed to apply the principle of head and helper every time the world uses the word "leader," we would be robbing Christian women of offering much Christ-like encouragement and influence that God intended them to give.
- Second, where leadership is clearly exercising the kind of authority that is responsible before God for giving direction for the benefit of others, there we wisely seek to apply the principle of head and helper to give us direction for how God designed men and women to work together in interdependent partnership. There we must not follow our culture's lead in denying the gender distinctions Scripture clearly establishes."

**How in the world will I ever know what to do as a leader trying to lead or encourage others with a Christ-like attitude!**

Let's go back to Scripture and Philippians and let Paul clear things up for us. Perhaps this section needs to be re-titled:

### III. "Leading and Encouraging with a Christ-like Attitude." *Philippians 2:12-18, 3:1-4:1*

- Fix your eyes on Jesus – Nutritious spiritual diet (*Gurgel, Wendland*)

- Live with a Christ-like attitude (*Sarah Owens*)
- Honor and respect your head – Jesus, and his earthly representatives
- Be his earthly representative and ambassador at all times
  - Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind
  - Love your neighbor as yourself (*Stacy Hoehl*)
  - Discipline together with leadership as part of the way the Lord defines love (Hebrews 12)
- Take up your cross: Save your life for the sake of Jesus and the Gospel
  - Spiritual exercise (*Valleskey, Whaley*)
    - Wide variation from person to person
    - Wide variation at different times of your own life
    - Under-training or overtraining causes injury
- Continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling (*Cook, Gurgel, Wendland*)
- For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose
- No complaining or arguing (*Miller*)
- Shine like a star in the universe (*Sievert, Golembiewski/Sauer*)
- As you hold out the Word of life
  - FOR THE SAKE OF JESUS AND THE GOSPEL
  - IT'S NOT ABOUT YOU!
- Claim your crown

Resources used for this presentation:

*Concordia Study Bible*

*Philippians, Colossians, Philemon: The People's Bible*, Harlyn Kruschel

*The Theology of the Cross: Reflections on His Cross and Ours*,

Daniel Deutschlander

*Modeling the Message: The Christological Core of Philippians (2:5-11)*

*and its Communicative Implications*, Ernst R. Wendland, circa 2007

*“Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.”*

2010 graduation sermon for Manitowoc Lutheran High School, Pastor Tom Pankow

Pastor Dave Kehl

Prof. Rich Gurgel