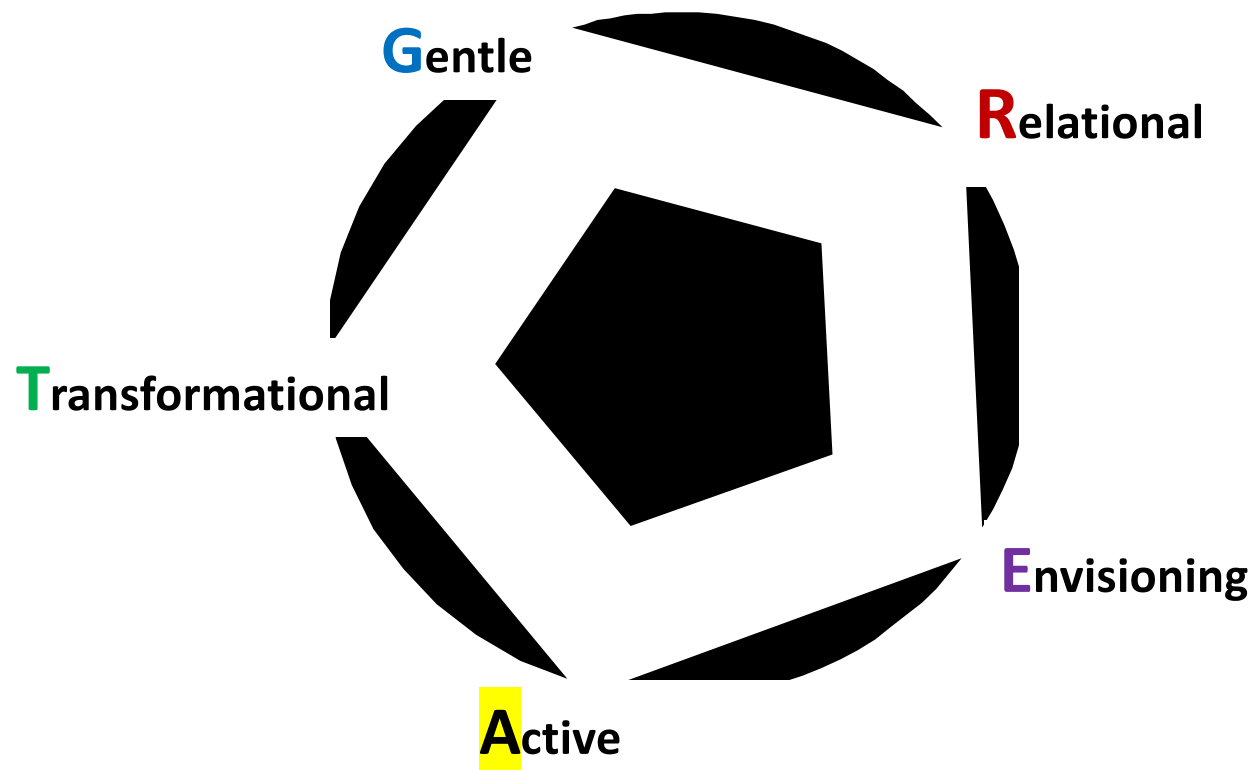




GREAT Leadership (2)
Shalom Ministries International
July 19, 2026

GREAT Leadership



The Importance of Relationships

- Church ministry is about people
 - People business (People > program, system, sermon, place).
 - Ministry means service. It refers to any activity or organized effort done to serve others in the name of Chris.
- Ministry is about **relationships**
 - It is forming a loving relationship with other individual with the aim of mutual growth in Christian understanding, obedience and service of others.
- Gospel is **relational**
 - It is not merely about individual salvation, but about restored relationship with God and others.
- It is universally considered the number one requirement
 - While a pastor must possess theological knowledge and administrative abilities, ministry is fundamentally about people. Strong relational skills are consistently cited as the single most important asset for long-term pastoral success.
 - Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn (Romans 12:15).
 - Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone... (2 Timothy 2:24).
 - Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others (Philippians 2:3-4).

God's Relational Nature

- God is a communal God
 - Then God said, "Let **us** make mankind in **our** image, in **our** likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground" (Genesis 1:26).
- God created human as relational beings
 - (God said) It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him (Genesis 2:18).
- God is immanence
 - (God said) Am I only a God nearby, and not a God far away? (Jeremiah 23:23).
- God is Immanuel
 - The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel (which means God with us) (Matthew 1:23).
 - And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age (Matthew 28:20).
 - The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you (John 14:17).

Jesus the Relational

- Jesus was extremely **relational**
 - The woman at the well (John 4).
 - The tax collector in the tree (Luke 19).
 - The desperate father with a sick child (Matthew 17:14-20).
 - The widow who lost her only son (Luke 7:11-17).
- Jesus worked in a **community**
 - He called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles (Luke 6:13).
 - Calling the Twelve to him, he began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over impure spirits (Mark 6:7).
 - After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go (Luke 10:1).
 - As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them (Luke 19:29).
 - (Jesus to Peter and John) Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover (Luke 22:8).
 - He took Peter, James and John, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death, stay here and keep watch” (Mark 14:33-34).

Barnaba: a Model of a Relational Leader

- Joseph, Son of encouragement
 - Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet (Acts 4:36-37).
- He extends trust and legitimacy to the outcast
 - When he (Paul) came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him (Acts 9:26-27).
- He celebrated and nurtured the success of others
 - When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord (Acts 11:23-24).
- He shared the leadership platform
 - Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year they met with the church and taught great numbers of people (Acts 11:25-26).
- He believed in second chances and restorative grace
 - Barnabas wanted to take John with them, but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus (Acts 15:37-39).

Who Is a Relational Leader?

- Values **relationships** because humans are created in God's image
 - Every human being possesses an inherent dignity, meaning, and worth.
 - Leaders must have a unique respect for human life. With this perspective leaders grasp a sincere desire to evangelize the lost
 - Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen (1 John 4:20).
- Look to **give**, not get; **listen**, not talk; **serve**, not be served
 - Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so they may take hold of the life that is truly life" (1 Timothy 6:18-19)
- See others as God sees them with great potential to grow
 - True leaders choose potential over constraints, strengths over weaknesses, and God's grace over human judgment.
 - There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off (Proverbs 23:18).
 - For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11).

Three Stages of a Relational Leadership

- Love others as yourself
 - And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself (Matthew 22:39).
 - Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself (1 Samuel 18:3).
 - Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God (1 John 4:7-8).
 - Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you (Ephesians 4:32).
- Treat others better than myself
 - Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves (Romans 12:10).
 - Whoever wants to be first must be your slave— just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many (Matthew 20:27-28).
- Lay down my life for others
 - This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters (1 John 3:16).
 - My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends (John 15:12-13).

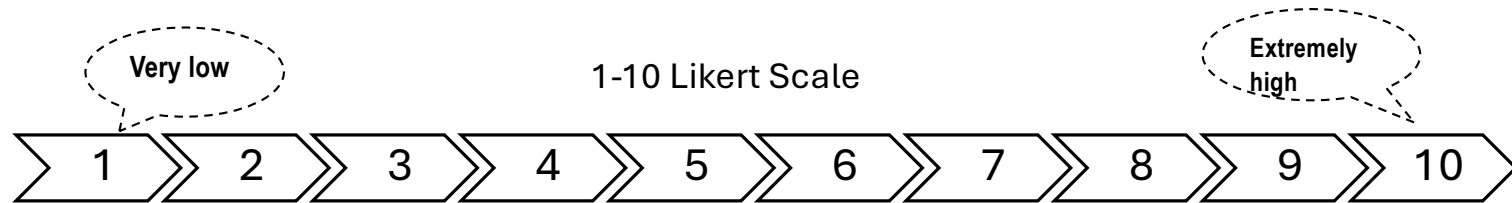
Cultivating Relational Leadership

- Accept & appreciate differences
 - Move beyond mere tolerance to true appreciation of diversity.
 - Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues (1 Corinthians 12:27-28).
- Plan and prepare for connections regularly
 - Make people the priority in your ministry.
 - Each week, pastors must intentionally plan how they will connect with individuals via email, phone calls, in-person visits, or other meaningful avenues.
 - But, brothers and sisters, when we were orphaned by being separated from you for a short time (in person, not in thought), out of our intense longing we made every effort to see you. For we wanted to come to you—certainly I, Paul, did, again and again—but Satan blocked our way (1 Thessalonians 2:17-18).
- Celebrate relationships publicly and often
 - Let your church community know what is happening in each person's life by highlighting small successes, sharing personal milestones, and celebrating spiritual advancements and victories.

Diagnostic Questions: Relational Leadership

- Focus of prayer: **People vs. Projects**
 - When you pray about your ministry, what dominates your conversation with God?
- Execution style: **Collaborative vs. Solo**
 - How do you naturally prefer to get work done?
- Decision-making: **Inclusive consultation vs. Independent control**
 - When you are launching a new project, what is your very last step? Do you make the choice alone, or do you consult your team first?
- Measure success: **Human growth vs. Event metrics**
 - At the end of an event, how do you determine if it went well?
- Meeting agenda: **Soul care vs. Strategy**
 - When your ministry team gathers, what receives the best energy and time?
- Personal posture: **Accessible friend vs. Distant expert**
 - How do people in your ministry perceive your presence?

Evaluate Your Relational Leadership Score



What Are Some Interventions (Strategies) to Cultivate Your Relational Leadership This Week?

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