

# LIFT

## Ministry Group March Resource

### Stifling Others

Are we stifling the next generation of leaders because we are insecure about our own leadership abilities?

There are pastors who, because of their own insecurities or feelings of inadequacy, are threatened by other leaders whom they perceive to be surpassing them in influence or popularity. We see this reflected biblically in 1 Samuel 18:6-9:

“6 When the men were returning home after David had killed the Philistine, the women came out from all the towns of Israel to meet King Saul with singing and dancing, with joyful songs and with timbrels and lyres.  
7 As they danced, they sang:

**“Saul has slain his thousands,  
and David his tens of thousands.”**

8 Saul was very angry; this refrain displeased him greatly. “They have credited David with tens of thousands,” he thought, “but me with only thousands. What more can he get but the kingdom?” 9 And from that time on Saul kept a close eye on David.

When a minister becomes jealous or intimidated by another leader, it can lead to some noticeable dysfunctions:

1. Deliberate developmental delays: An insecure leader will intentionally keep others in subordinate roles and refuse to foster their potential or invest in their leadership growth.
2. Inner Paranoia: An insecure leader will develop unhealthy attitudes, filtered through their own jealousy or ego, towards those they are called to equip, train and lead.
3. Extreme Micro-management: An insecure leader diminishes trust among his/her leadership by not trusting them to operate in their own aptitudes and gifting.

**Discuss:** Have you ever allowed your insecurities to stifle another leader?

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/8-contrasting-signs-insecure-leader/>



### Shop Talk:

One of the greatest threats a minister faces in life and leadership is insecurity. Insecurity, according to the Oxford Dictionary is defined as uncertainty or anxiety about oneself; a lack of confidence.

Insecurities can develop as ministers navigate unrealistic expectations, low self image, unfavorable criticisms, competing agendas within their leadership team, strained staff relations, or being unfairly compared to other churches or ministries.

**Discuss:** What creates the greatest insecurity for you as a minister?

Southwestern Assembly of God University published a 2015 article discussing how insecurity can manifest itself in a variety of behaviors:

(Cont. on back)

## Addressing Insecurity

Pastor Ron Edmondson writing for [churchleaders.com](https://churchleaders.com) presented some helpful tips regarding how to overcome being an insecure leader:

### 1. Concentrate on your own abilities.

Take some time to focus on the specific skill sets and character qualities that make you an effective leader. It is too easy to get hyper-focused on our weaknesses and ignore our strengths.

### 2. Avoid Comparison

Don't try and be someone you're not. Be yourself. No two ministries or ministers are alike.

**“God called us to multiplication not replication.”**

We can be open to learn from others without feeling the pressure of becoming them.

### 3. Surround yourself with people who complement your weaknesses.

It is not a sign of weakness to bring others alongside you who are gifted in areas where you need help. In reality it adds value to your leadership and organization and employs more people in the work of the ministry.

### 4. Keep Learning

Education is extremely edifying. The more you grow in information the more competent you will feel in your ministry role. Seek wisdom from other leaders. Read books. Take a class. Leaders never stop learning.

### 5. Rehearse God's call on your life.

Too often, as leaders, we question our calling because the challenges we are facing feel overwhelming. However, God has not only called you, but equipped you for these moments, placing you in positions of leadership to address difficult situations.

**Discuss:** In which of these areas do you see room for growth?

<https://churchleaders.com/pastors/457983-457983-insecure-leader.html/2>

1. **Comparison:** You begin to compare yourself to others and score yourself against their achievements.
2. **Compensation:** You feel like a victim and must now compensate for your losses or inferiority.
3. **Competition:** You drift into self-centered patterns, consumed by outdoing others in receiving attention and reward.
4. **Compulsion:** You are driven to perform compulsively to gain others' approval; you are a people-pleaser.
5. **Condemnation:** You develop a judgmental attitude of yourself or others, which results in self-pity or self-conceit.
6. **Control:** In order to validate your own worth, you feel as though you must take charge, protect your interests and monopolize situations.
7. **Closed-off:** You close up, get defensive, and deny your problems.
8. **Combativeness:** You have an incessant need to have your way, viewing others as obstacles to your goals.

**Discuss:** In which of the following ways does insecurity present itself in your life and ministry?

