

Who you lead and How you follow on the walk with God:

Were Walking on the path, going somewhere...

WE ALL LEAD, and WE ALL FOLLOW!

Lead – to influence or take the first initiative as to inspire others to do the same, to map out or create a route to take. A trainer, teacher, advisor,

Follow – to obey, imitate, shadow or go along with

Jethro, Moses, Moses, Joshua, Elijah, Elisha, Jesus, Disciples, Paul, Timothy,

Lead, follow or get out of the way!

Requirements for Progress:

1. Know the destination
2. Get a vehicle (means of transportation)
3. Learn from previous travelers
4. Create some momentum

Christianity:

- a. Heaven / mature relationship with Christ
- b. Church , where we pray, study worship
- c. Testimonies, mentors
- d. Active in serving, doing, living it out

Marriage:

- a. Fulfilling family purpose & personal intimacy
- b. Shared time, home, finances
- c. Parents or godly couples
- d. Prioritize shared values, reject opposing actions

This generation defines everyone as a peer.

NO structure,
NO authority,
NO respect,
NO plan for progress!

Military mission, business venture, etc

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John Bunyan's 1678 novel *The Pilgrim's Progress* is regarded as one of the most significant works of theological fiction in English literature. It has been translated into more than 200 languages and never been out of print 250 million copies sold.

Christian, is an everyman character, and the plot centers on his journey from his hometown, the "City of Destruction" ("this world"), to the "Celestial City" ("that which is to come": Heaven) atop Mount Zion. Christian is weighed down by a great burden—the knowledge of his sin—which he believed came from his reading "the book in his hand" (the Bible) their present condition of being a sinner are used to sink them into the mud of the swamp. He has a rough time of it because of his past sins wearing him down, but Hopeful helps him over, and they are welcomed into the Celestial City.

Who are you leading, how are you following?

Leroy Percy a former senator from Mississippi, appointed his son Will to head the relief effort to fight floods from the Mississippi river in 1927. He previously practiced law for railroads and banks. Leroy Percy had acquired a total of 20,000 acres. His plantation, was worked by black sharecroppers, who provided most of the labor.

During the devastating Mississippi Flood of 1927, which covered millions of acres of plantations, leaving 1,000 dead, millions of people homeless, and caused catastrophic damage, Delta residents began frantic efforts to protect their towns and lands. They forced the many black workers to raise the levees along the river by stacking sand bags on the top of the established levee walls.

Leroy Percy kept the 10,000 black workers in the area isolated on top of levees 80 feet wide, 5 miles long, when the levee was breached. In addition, they were forced to work without pay in unloading Red Cross relief supplies mostly benefiting the whites. Both father and son would receive criticism for the forced labor. Whites were evacuated while blacks were kept stranded on the strip of land along the levee with starving livestock.

Will, his son had reported to his father that NO OTHER OPTION was acceptable except to evacuate ALL people immediately. Several steamboats were dispatched to receive the black population but his father went behind his back to convince the committee in charge to NOT rescue black people as it might cause an unsettling population surge in surrounding areas. The steamboats turned around empty. Leroy was possessed by racism and greed and had undermined his sons moral conviction to do the right thing in order to protect his own personal empire.

Will Percy had always admired his father until this crisis when he was betrayed.

Will went on to appeal to Then Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover's whos handling of the crisis improved his reputation, helping him become president in 1928. William Percy's most well-known work is his memoir, *Lanterns on the Levee: Recollections of a Planter's Son*.

Top reasons we don't want to lead: (FEELINGS) "FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS"?

1. It requires responsibility (I'm too selfish)
2. It's a risk to invest in others, they may not return the effort
3. Were too insecure to be criticized or blamed
4. False humility (I'm not gifted, capable, or confident)

Why we don't follow: (FEELINGS)

1. I'm a maverick, loner, not a team player
2. To much pride to submit
3. To ignorant to admit I might learn
4. Afraid someone's influence will rob me of my own choices, path

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Are you following God first?

As you follow people, when do you pause that journey?

David led early as he shepherded sheep, as the younger brother, he followed. When Saul was King, he honored the office, even when the person in that office did not honor him. We must learn to follow well if we ever going to lead others.

Matt 9:36 And what pity he felt for the crowds that came, because their problems were so great and they didn't know what to do or where to go for help. They were like sheep without a shepherd.

Luke 12:48

A leader is one who has shown he can be responsible.

Eph 4:11 –

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ
A heart to develop and empower others to succeed.

Walking with / is following after

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever **follows me will never walk** in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 8:12

Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children.

Ephesians 5:1

To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

1 Peter 2:21

FOLLOWING GOD IS EASIER THAN FOLLOWING GODLY PEOPLE...

1 cor 11:1 – Follow me as I follow Christ

According to Forbes magazine – 9 ways to follow a good leader:

1. Respect the role of the leader.
2. Be a good team player. Support your teammates.
3. Don't be a yes person. When you disagree, do so responsibly and respectfully.
4. Make your case with facts as well as reason.
5. Support the leader's decision after it is made.
6. Offer feedback to the leader.
7. Look for ways to help the leader accomplish his/her duties in ways that benefit the whole team.
8. Don't engage in gossip that denigrates members of the team.
9. Regard followership as a responsibility to the team rather than to an individual.

Ruth 1:16

Where you go...I'll go

Phil 4:9 –

9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.