Post #1 – Joshua Sadler

A difference between leadership in a church and business setting is the target group. Businesses are primarily for-profit with the motive of providing a service to customers. Churches are non-profit organizations that provide services to a wide range of people with no expectation of return. Although both organizations hope to grow and expand in their mission; the setting and objectives of leadership are different. Christian leaders in both sectors are held to a higher ethical standard. Titus 1:5-8 lists several qualifications for elders.

Although businesses might require leaders to operate in integrity, honesty, and reliability; church leaders are held to more specific ethical standards. A distinctive difference between church and business leaders is that church leaders must protect Christian doctrine. 1 Timothy 1:9 says, “He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it” (*English Standard Version*). Spiritual leaders recognize a spiritual accountability to a divine authority (Munroe, 2009).

            Church leaders have autonomy on how to operate a church as long as it aligns with biblical principles. Church leaders need to be proactive, empower people, take risks, and create a collective vision (Grandy, 2013). These principles are similar to a business setting. Greed, corruption, and gossip cannot be infiltrated in with church leadership. Family, friends, and community service help build a leader by giving them time for refreshment. These priorities can help a leader focus on what truly matters in life which can help in both a professional and spiritual way.

            Since employers are not allowed to discriminate on the basis of religion, I would not hire an individual based on their religion. However, I would look for biblical qualities which I consider important.

References

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Munroe, M. (2009). *Becoming a Leader*. New Kensington, PA: Whitaker House.

Post #2 – Keno Hayes

The difference of leadership in a workplace verse the church setting usually comes from people’s perception. In the church a leader is held to a higher standard because they are supposed to demonstrate all of the ethically standards, that are pleasing in the sight of God. In a business setting not all leaders are of a Christian walk, were their actions aren’t necessarily in line with what the Lord commands. “The deep problem that we face in business, is the fragmented and divided life, of separating our most important beliefs and convictions that we celebrate on Sundays from the practical realities of work on Mondays (Rae & Wong, 2012 pg. 65).”

Truth be told Christian leadership in the workplace should be the same as in a church setting because the church actually lies within us and not a building. We are supposed to be able to draw non-believers to Christ by letting our light shine through our actions, in the way we treat others. “For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do (Ephesians 2:10 NIV).” The apostle Paul was teaching the qualification for the elders in Titus 1:5-16. Those qualifications were to be trustworthy and upright in order direct others.

Paul then gave a warning about deceivers and false prophets. In a workplace there are going to be those who may not share our Christian values, but we have to continue to treat them with kindness and respect. Jesus once said “it is not the healthy who needs a doctor but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners (Mark 2:17 NIV).” Because of this no one should be excluded from being hired based on weather they share a Christian worldview or not. Although, I personally feel like it’s a benefit to an organization when a person does have Christian values.

Reference

Rae, S. and Wong, K (2012). Beyond Integrity (3rd Edition). Grand Rapids, MI.: Zondervan

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