

Church Office

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Meeting location

Marshall Middle School
25 S. Pontiac, Janesville

Pastor:

John Swanson

*Declaring the greatness of God and serving
others for joy and His honor (II Cor. 4:5)*



March 28, 2000

Dear Friend,

According to Dr. Howard Hendricks, a leader is a person, “who knows where he (or she) is going and is able to persuade others to go with him (or her).” Pastors and all others who aspire to leadership in the church ought to be very clear about where they are going—to Christ as the all-satisfying treasure and only hope of life. The work of leading is then to persuade others to abandon every other treasure and join in trusting and following Jesus.

A pastor (parent, small group leader, elder, etc.) who forgets where he/she is going may be able to get people fired up about good things but if they are not getting people fired up about the best thing, Christ and his salvation, then they are not doing the work of God. On the other hand the pastor (parent, small group leader, elder, etc.) who is content to go to Christ him/herself but gives no energy to bringing others along is not doing the work of Christ either.

Humanly speaking, the spiritual health of a church depends upon the quality and number of spiritual leaders exercising their leadership in the church. The reason for this is clearly stated by Jesus in Luke 6:39-40, “He also told them this parable: ‘Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit? A student is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher.’” People become like those they follow. This is why all the teaching in the NT on spiritual leadership in the church emphasizes that leaders exhibit Christ-like character, Christ-like love and a true knowledge of Christ from the word of God (1 Timothy 3:1-13, 4:1-16, 2 Timothy, Titus 1: 5-9, etc.). Leaders are to be infected with the “true disease” of Christianity and through repeated, intentional exposure in formal and informal settings they are to transmit the disease to others.

We are in the midst of electing our first elder board to give leadership to our church. We also are in the process of recruiting and training additional small group leaders. We are not to look for perfect men and women to fill these roles but for those who clearly exhibit a maturing relationship with Christ (1 Tim. 4:15-16). Please pray that God would lead us in the selection of these critical leadership positions (Especially pray for the election of elders on April 9). Pray that our elders and small group leaders would “Watch their lives and doctrine closely” (1 Tim. 4: 16). Pray we would “respect those who work hard among us, who are over us in the Lord and who admonish us.” (1 Thess. 5:12)

In the mercy,