

## PITFALLS FOR PASTORS AND CELL LEADERS

Cell Group Leaders-7.3.06-ekb  
Frontline Christian Church, Kerikeri, N.Z.

As cell group leaders, (or pastors), we need to be aware of various pitfalls to avoid.

But first we need to remind ourselves:

It is important that each leader knows, and is **secure, in their identity in Christ**. There is a **general identity** of who we are in Christ, that is true for all of us, and there is the **personal specific identity** of our ministry calling and motivational function, in the Body of Christ. *Rom 12:5-8, 1Pet 4:10, 1Cor 12:7-11, 1Cor 12:28, Eph 4:11.*

The **fulness, anointing and leading of the Holy Spirit**, are important for every believer, but especially for those in leadership. *Eph 5:18,19, Rom 8:14, Jn 14:26, 1Jn 2:27.*

**Keeping in the Word of faith each day** ensures that the fresh Word of God is coming through all the time and that you are **ready to speak the Word** into needy lives. *Ps 1:1-3, Josh 1:8, Jer 15:16, Heb 4:12, Ps 119:89, 105, 130, Jn 8:31,32, 2Pet 1:3,4, Is 50:4.*

For leadership to be actively building up the cell group members in the Lord, the ministry needs to flow through **humble hearts set on serving others**. The blessing of the Lord rests on those who humbly serve others. *Phil 2:5-8, Mat 20:28, Lk 22:27, 1Pet 5:5, Lk 18:9-14, Jn 13:13-17.*

### Now the pit falls to avoid:

- **In your service of others, do not be a doormat.** Serve out of your secure identity in Christ, and the leading and anointing of the Holy Spirit.
- **Do not be a garbage bin where people chuck their rubbish.** Do not listen to self pity, moans, groans, and complaints about other people and their sins and failures. Do not listen to bitter accusations against leaders or others. Jesus has told us to forgive others, release them from our condemning judgment, (not evaluative judgment,) hand the problems over to Him to solve, and to pray blessing on those who do wrong to us. *Mk 11:25,26, Mat 6:12-15, Mat 18:21-35, Mat 7:1,2, Rom 2:1,2, Jam 4:11,12, Mat 11:28-30, 1Pet 5:7, Lk 6:27,28,35-37.*
- **Do not carry other peoples' cares and burdens so that they pile up and crush you.** *Gal 6:2, and Gal 6:5.* There is a balance here. Pray for others in faith according to the promises of God and then cast the burden on the Lord. *Mat 11:28-30, 1Pet 5:7, Ps 55:22.*
- **When someone comes at you and accuses you of failure, sin, evil and wrong, say, "That is not true, I do not receive that".** (But if it is true apologise and repent before God. Do not let sin rule in your life. *Rom 6:1-14.*) Also take authority over the curse that has been spoken onto you and smash it off your life. *Is 54:17.* Submit to God and resist the devil. *Jam 4:7, 1Jn 3:8, Heb 2:14.*
- **Do not pick up peoples' issues when it has nothing to do with you at all.** Listen, pray for wisdom, and answer after you have had time to consider it in detail. Ask for help of the church leaders or other wise believers and mature counsellors.
- **When a crisis call comes do not respond immediately.** Ask some questions as to how long the problem has existed, what they have done about it and have they prayed for the Lord's help? Ask if they are praying and having a Bible reading each day? If people are not prepared to feed themselves on the Word of God and spend time in prayer we are not there to prop them up. However do not be too hard nosed. Avoid being judgmental. Mercy triumphs over judgment. *Jam 2:13.* If necessary make an appointment for a suitable time at a later date.
- **Stream line you ministry around the needs of your family and not the other way around.** Protect home base. Do not neglect you family to minister to others. Your family is your first responsibility.
- **As a leader, work together with the other cell leaders as a team.** Support and encourage each other, and pray for one another. **T.E.A.M. TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE.** Hold to the corporate vision and be of one mind and of one accord as it was in the early church. Unity brings amazing blessing from the Lord but it has to be worked at. Choose oneness and beware of the enemies' strategy to bring division. *Mat 12:25, Ps 133, Ac 1:14, Ac 2:1, Ac 2:46, Ac 4:24, Ac 5:12.*