AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF

CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP TEXTS

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**INTRODUCTION**

In Christian leadership, the essence of leadership transcends mere authority or power—it becomes a call to serve, uplift, and foster the growth of others. Rooted in biblical principles, Christian leadership emphasizes leading with love, grace, and humility, modeling one’s actions after Jesus Christ, the ultimate servant leader. This form of leadership focuses not only on guiding others but on embodying mercy, compassion, and selflessness in every interaction. Servant leadership, a concept popularized by Robert K. Greenleaf, parallels Christian leadership by shifting the focus from the leader’s success to the well-being and development of their followers. It challenges leaders to serve first, ensuring that their leadership is marked by empathy, ethical behavior, and a commitment to the growth of those they lead. These approaches prioritize the individual, recognizing that leadership is not about enforcing rules or policies but about understanding and responding to the unique circumstances and needs of each individual person.

This annotated bibliography explores the intersection of Christian and servant leadership, highlighting key texts that provide both theological and practical insights. The works included reflect the foundational principles of these leadership models, offering case studies, empirical research, and theological discussions that illuminate the role of grace, resilience, and mercy in effective leadership. Each entry emphasizes the importance of treating individuals as valued members of a community, leading with compassion, and maintaining faith in the ultimate success of God’s plan, even when it may not align with human expectations.

**ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Books

Ortberg, John. *If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001.

In *If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat*, John Ortberg invites readers to embrace a life of faith by stepping beyond their comfort zones, drawing inspiration from Peter’s experience of walking on water toward Jesus. Ortberg challenges believers to recognize that God calls them to trust Him in moments of uncertainty and risk. Through practical insights, he encourages readers to face their fears, reframe failure as an opportunity for growth, and build a deeper connection with God. With reflection questions and spiritual exercises at the end of each chapter, the book serves as a guide for individual or group study, encouraging both personal transformation and communal growth.

This book influences Christian leadership development by emphasizing the necessity of taking bold, faith-filled actions. Leaders are called to recognize and follow God’s presence, even when it leads into uncharted waters. Ortberg’s teaching helps leaders discern between genuine faith and recklessness while managing the inevitable challenges that arise. His approach to failure as a stepping stone to spiritual growth encourages resilience, which is essential for effective leadership. By focusing on obedience, courage, and trust in God’s timing, Ortberg’s work provides a roadmap for leaders seeking to align their lives and leadership with God’s purposes.

Swaner, Lynn E., and Andy Wolfe. *Flourishing Together: A Christian Vision for Students, Educators, and Schools*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2021.

*Flourishing Together* by Lynn E. Swaner and Andy Wolfe offers a transformative vision for Christian education that emphasizes holistic flourishing for students, educators, and schools. Addressing the growing pressures of standardized testing, student mental health challenges, and educator burnout, the authors advocate for a more comprehensive view of success in education. They propose five essential domains for achieving flourishing—purpose, relationships, learning, resources, and well-being—grounded in a robust theological framework. These domains, identified through extensive empirical research, serve as the foundation for reshaping educational environments into interconnected ecosystems where everyone thrives together.

This book impacts Christian leadership development within educational settings by challenging leaders to go beyond academic performance and focus on the whole person. It encourages educators and school leaders to foster environments that prioritize well-being, purpose, and meaningful relationships, reflecting a Christ-centered approach to leadership. By presenting a collaborative model of flourishing, *Flourishing Together* equips leaders with practical tools to create sustainable, supportive communities that nurture both spiritual and academic growth. It serves as a valuable resource for professional development, inspiring Christian leaders to build schools that reflect the abundant life Christ offers.

Swaner, Lynn E., ed. *MindShift*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2019.

In *MindShift*, Lynn E. Swaner and a team of over 60 leading educators present a compelling case for the transformative power of Christian education. The book argues for a necessary shift in perspective, highlighting how a robust Christian education positively influences student outcomes, including purpose-driven career choices, community engagement, and a stronger commitment to religious practices. As Christian education faces various challenges, the authors provide insights and strategies to help schools cultivate a deeper and more authentic educational experience. By sharing stories of love and hope, they encourage schools to actively engage with their communities and contribute to the growth of the Church and the Kingdom.

This book is instrumental in shaping the field of Christian leadership development by advocating for a more holistic approach to education that prioritizes character formation alongside academic achievement. It emphasizes the importance of nurturing a sense of purpose and community among students, which aligns closely with servant leadership principles. The diverse perspectives included in *MindShift* equip educational leaders with innovative ideas and best practices for creating impactful, faith-driven educational environments. By fostering a culture of collaboration and community outreach, Swaner’s work encourages leaders to think critically about their roles in advancing Christian education and nurturing the next generation of leaders.

Smith, Emily. *The Science of the Good Samaritan: Thinking Bigger about Loving Our Neighbors*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2023.

In *The Science of the Good Samaritan*, Dr. Emily Smith offers a timely exploration of what it means to love our neighbors in a contemporary, often divided society. Drawing on her expertise as a global health professional and her Christian faith, Smith utilizes the biblical parable of the Good Samaritan as a framework for understanding neighborly love in practical, actionable ways. Through personal stories and examples from around the world, she encourages readers to identify shared values with those from different backgrounds and to reach out to marginalized communities. The book emphasizes the importance of redefining "neighbor" to encompass a broader understanding of community and solidarity.

This work influences the field of Christian leadership development by challenging leaders to engage in active, compassionate outreach that transcends cultural and social barriers. As a scientist and quantitative researcher, I resonate deeply with Smith’s approach, as it effectively combines Scripture with science, data, and rigorous research methodologies. Her emphasis on authentic relationships and bridging societal gaps aligns with the principles of servant leadership, calling for leaders to prioritize empathy, inclusivity, and active participation in the welfare of others. One of my favorite chapters, "Trickle-Up Economics," advocates for a bottom-up approach to ministry by emphasizing support for “the least of these.” By addressing their needs first, we can create a foundation of safety and security that empowers them. Additionally, Smith illustrates how data-driven strategies can maximize impact, helping leaders to foster community and demonstrate Christ-like love in an increasingly complex world. *The Science of the Good Samaritan* serves as a vital resource for those seeking to enact meaningful change in their communities.

Leaf, Caroline. *Switch on Your Brain: The Key to Peak Happiness, Thinking, and Health*. Grand Rapids: BakerBooks, 2015.

In *Switch On Your Brain*, Dr. Caroline Leaf presents a compelling argument about the profound impact of thought patterns on overall health and well-being. Supported by extensive scientific and medical research, Leaf asserts that a significant percentage of illnesses stem from toxic thought life, which can trigger harmful physical and chemical responses within the body. She offers a practical framework for readers to "detox" their thoughts and cultivate healthier mental habits, providing a 21-day plan designed to promote positive thinking and emotional resilience.

This book is instrumental for those in Christian leadership as it underscores the biblical principle of transforming the mind (Romans 12:2) while providing actionable strategies for mental health. Leaf’s integration of faith and science encourages leaders to consider the spiritual dimensions of mental wellness and to foster environments that promote psychological health among their communities. By equipping readers with tools to manage their thought life effectively, *Switch On Your Brain* serves as an essential resource for leaders who aim to inspire and cultivate flourishing, resilient communities aligned with God's purpose.

Nunnery, Leslie. *Heart School: How Amazing Parents Become Excellent Home Educators*. Green Forest, AR: Teach Them Diligently, 2023.

*Heart School: How Amazing Parents Become Excellent Home Educators* by Leslie Nunnery presents a transformative approach to homeschooling that prioritizes the emotional and spiritual well-being of children alongside their academic success. The book emphasizes that effective education goes beyond mere knowledge acquisition; it fosters strong family bonds and cultivates a nurturing environment where children can thrive. Nunnery provides practical strategies for parents, making the homeschooling journey more manageable and less stressful, ultimately creating a foundation for strong family relationships. By focusing on the hearts of children, Nunnery empowers parents to guide their children in developing a love for God and a readiness to pursue the paths He lays before them.

In the realm of Christian leadership development, *Heart School* influences the field by equipping parents to be leaders within their own families. It challenges the traditional notions of education by framing parenting as a leadership role that shapes the next generation. By integrating faith-based principles with practical homeschooling methods, Nunnery underscores the importance of intentional leadership in nurturing both the mind and spirit of children. This approach not only impacts individual families but also contributes to a broader movement of Christian leaders who prioritize heart-centered education as a means of preparing children to fulfill their God-given potential.

Malphurs, Aubrey. *Being Leaders: The Nature of Authentic Christian Leadership.* Grand Rapids: BakerBook House, 2003.

In *Being Leaders*, Aubrey Malphurs provides a comprehensive exploration of what constitutes authentic Christian leadership, grounding his insights in biblical principles rather than secular models. Malphurs defines Christian leadership from the inside out, emphasizing godly character, commitment, and a servant attitude. While the initial chapters may feel somewhat generic, the final third of the book is packed with practical resources, including spiritual gifts assessments and reflective questions designed to facilitate deeper self-evaluation and growth for leaders. This practical emphasis resonates deeply with task-oriented readers and serves as an invaluable resource for anyone seeking to implement these tools in their leadership context.

This book contributes to the field of Christian leadership development by challenging contemporary leaders to align their practices with biblical principles rather than secular paradigms. Malphurs' emphasis on the internal character of leaders fosters an understanding that authentic leadership is rooted in a relationship with Christ, which, in turn, influences how leaders interact with others. By promoting an introspective approach to leadership, *Being Leaders* encourages a transformative mindset among Christian leaders, urging them to cultivate a leadership style that reflects humility, integrity, and a commitment to serving others, thereby advancing the overall mission of the Church. I find this book to be the most practical leadership guide I have encountered. The extensive resources provided at the end have the potential to influence my dissertation survey. By incorporating these assessments and reflective tools into my research, I aim to create a foundation for understanding and developing authentic Christian leaders, making Malphurs’ work an essential reference in the field of Christian leadership development.

Hollingsworth, Amy. *The Simple Faith of Mister Rogers: Spiritual Insights from the World's Most Beloved Neighbor*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2019.

In *The Simple Faith of Mister Rogers*, Amy Hollingsworth offers an intimate portrait of Fred Rogers, delving into his spiritual legacy and the faith that shaped his life and work. Drawing on personal interviews and letters exchanged with Rogers, the book reveals the profound depth of his character, showcasing how he embodied the principles of a servant leader and peacemaker. Rogers's gentle manner and commitment to nurturing children’s spirits resonated with audiences worldwide, illustrating the impact of faith in action. His belief in "preaching the gospel at all times"—echoing the words of St. Francis of Assisi—serves as a powerful reminder of how authentic Christian leadership often lies in the way one serves others and manifests faith in everyday life.

As a lifelong admirer of the *Mr. Rogers* show, I found Hollingsworth's exploration of Fred Rogers deeply moving and enlightening. The biography highlights Rogers's courageous advocacy for children, including his battles against government policies that threatened his mission, and emphasizes the importance of servant leadership while offering practical insights into how faith can inform and transform one’s public life. The insights gained from Hollingsworth’s work are particularly influential in the field of Christian leadership development, highlighting the significance of authenticity and relational leadership. By examining Rogers’ life, readers are encouraged to reflect on how they can embody Christ-like qualities in their own leadership journeys. The book serves as a reminder that effective leaders often prioritize the well-being of others, aligning with the servant leadership model foundational to Christian teachings, making it a valuable resource for anyone seeking to cultivate a leadership style rooted in genuine faith and compassion.

Maxwell, John C. *The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership Follow Them and People Will Follow You*. New York, NY: HarperCollins Leadership, 2022.

In this 25th anniversary edition of *The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership*, John C. Maxwell revisits his groundbreaking leadership principles, enhancing the original text with contemporary insights and stories from influential leaders. Maxwell’s approach highlights the enduring nature of these laws, which emphasize fundamental truths about leadership that transcend time and context. By integrating personal anecdotes and examples from today’s successful figures, Maxwell makes the laws relatable and applicable to a modern audience, ensuring that both new and seasoned leaders can find value in the material.

This updated edition influences the field of Christian leadership development by presenting a framework that encourages ethical leadership grounded in biblical principles. Maxwell’s laws foster a servant leadership mindset, aligning well with the values of empathy, humility, and service central to Christian leadership. As a widely recognized resource, this book provides not only theoretical understanding but also practical applications that can be integrated into various leadership contexts, making it essential for those seeking to grow in their leadership journey within faith-based environments.

Pearcey, Nancy. *The Toxic War on Masculinity: How Christianity Reconciles the Sexes*. Grand Rapids: BakerBooks, 2023.

In *The Toxic War on Masculinity*, Nancy Pearcey critically examines contemporary societal narratives that vilify masculinity and proposes a Christian perspective as a path toward reconciliation between the sexes. Through a historical lens, Pearcey reveals how modern ideologies have distorted the understanding of masculinity, leading to a pervasive culture of hostility against men. By presenting sociological evidence, she counters the stereotype of evangelical Christian men as harmful figures, demonstrating instead that they tend to exhibit the most positive behaviors in familial roles, such as being loving husbands and engaged fathers.

This book plays a significant role in the field of Christian leadership development by challenging prevailing ideologies and encouraging a return to a biblical understanding of masculinity. Pearcey’s arguments empower Christian leaders to advocate for a healthier expression of masculinity that aligns with Christian teachings, promoting empathy, responsibility, and active engagement in family life. By equipping readers with the tools to confront toxic narratives, Pearcey offers a framework for dialogue and action that is rooted in faith, making her work a vital resource for those seeking to navigate the complexities of gender in today’s society.

Ramsey, Dave. *EntreLeadership: 20 Years of Practical Business Wisdom from the Trenches*. Nashville, TN: Howard Books, 2011.

In *EntreLeadership*, Dave Ramsey distills two decades of entrepreneurial experience into a practical guide aimed at leaders at all levels. Drawing from his journey of building a multimillion-dollar company from modest beginnings, Ramsey emphasizes that the strength of any organization lies in its leaders. He provides actionable strategies to inspire teams, manage finances, and cultivate a positive workplace culture, thereby empowering leaders to achieve their goals and foster organizational growth. This book is filled with practical advice that is both accessible and relevant, making it a valuable resource for aspiring and established leaders alike.

The impact of *EntreLeadership* on the field of Christian leadership development is significant. Ramsey’s insights align with biblical principles of stewardship, service, and integrity in leadership. By emphasizing the importance of valuing team members and fostering an environment where individuals take ownership of their roles, the book encourages a servant leadership approach rooted in faith. This focus on leadership development equips Christian leaders with the tools they need to navigate challenges and lead with purpose, ultimately contributing to a more ethical and effective business landscape that reflects Christian values.

Ridenour, Fritz. *How to Be a Christian without Being Religious*. Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House, 2014.

In *How to Be a Christian Without Being Religious*, Fritz Ridenour challenges the notion that Christianity is merely a set of rules and rituals. By examining the teachings of the book of Romans, Ridenour emphasizes that true Christianity is not about human efforts to please God but about embracing the relationship that God offers. This perspective liberates believers from the burdens of legalism, allowing them to experience the fullness of their identity in Christ. Ridenour’s message is one of hope, joy, and empowerment, encouraging Christians to live in the freedom of their faith rather than being constrained by traditional religious practices.

This book influences the field of Christian leadership development by redefining what it means to lead within a faith context. By promoting the idea that Christianity is fundamentally a relationship rather than a religion, Ridenour equips leaders to foster environments of grace and authenticity. This approach encourages leaders to prioritize relational connections over rule adherence, facilitating a more vibrant and dynamic faith community. As Christian leaders embrace this perspective, they can cultivate a culture that nurtures spiritual growth, encourages open dialogue, and inspires others to experience the transformative power of a personal relationship with Christ.

Snair, Scott. *West Point Leadership Lessons: Duty, Honor, and Other Management Principles*. 2004.

In *West Point Leadership Lessons*, Scott Snair articulates how the time-honored principles of leadership taught at the United States Military Academy can be effectively applied in the business world and beyond. Centered around the academy's motto, "Duty. Honor. Country," Snair delves into the concepts of duty as personal responsibility, honor in the context of corporate integrity, and country as belonging to a greater purpose. He draws on experiences from West Point graduates in various fields, including combat, politics, and business, illustrating how these foundational principles resonate across diverse environments.

This book impacts the field of Christian leadership development by emphasizing values that align closely with Christian teachings, such as integrity, service, and community. By instilling a strong sense of personal responsibility and ethical conduct, Snair's work encourages leaders to foster a culture of accountability and honor within their organizations. Additionally, the notion of contributing to a greater purpose resonates with the Christian call to serve others and work for the common good. Through these leadership principles, readers are equipped to cultivate environments where both individuals and organizations thrive, grounded in values that reflect their faith and commitment to ethical leadership.

Spears, Larry C., and Michele Lawrence. *Focus on Leadership Servant-Leadership for the Twenty-First Century*. New York: J. Wiley and Sons, 2002.

*Focus on Leadership* presents a compelling collection of essays that delve into the practice of servant-leadership within organizational and business contexts. Edited by Larry C. Spears, this work highlights the increasing recognition of servant-leadership as a critical paradigm in contemporary leadership discourse. The essays explore various facets of servant-leadership, including its ethical foundations, practical applications, and transformative potential for both leaders and organizations. This book serves as a valuable resource for understanding how servant-leadership can foster environments of collaboration, trust, and empowerment.

The significance of *Focus on Leadership* in the field of Christian leadership development lies in its alignment with biblical principles of service and humility. By advocating for a leadership style that prioritizes the needs of others and emphasizes ethical decision-making, the book resonates deeply with Christian values. The essays inspire leaders to embody a servant mindset, fostering a culture of support and encouragement that aligns with the teachings of Christ. As organizations increasingly seek to cultivate ethical and effective leadership, Spears’ work provides a robust framework for integrating servant-leadership principles into the heart of their mission and practice.

Welch, Ron. *10 Choices Successful Couples Make: The Secret to Love That Lasts a Lifetime*. Grand Rapids: Revell, 2019.

In *10 Choices Successful Couples Make*, Dr. Ron Welch challenges the conventional view of marriage that often emphasizes conflict as an inevitable aspect of relationships. Instead, he presents a more optimistic approach, suggesting that couples can actively choose behaviors that foster joy and minimize conflict. Welch outlines ten specific choices that couples can make, such as choosing forgiveness over grudges and understanding their unique marriage type. By focusing on practical strategies for effective communication and decision-making, the book provides couples with tools to enhance their relationships at any stage, from engagement to decades of marriage.

This book influences the field of Christian relationship development by promoting principles that align with biblical teachings on love, forgiveness, and unity. Welch's emphasis on proactive choices encourages couples to embody the virtues of compassion and understanding, fostering an environment where love can flourish. By equipping couples with strategies to navigate challenges positively, *10 Choices Successful Couples Make* serves as a valuable resource for those seeking to build a Christ-centered marriage. The insights offered can help couples deepen their connection, reflecting the love and grace found in their faith.

Dungy, Tony, and Nathan Whitaker. *The Mentor Leader: Secrets to Building People and Teams That Win Consistently*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2010.

In *The Mentor Leader*, Tony Dungy shares the principles that guided him to success in the NFL, emphasizing the importance of mentoring as a leadership style. Central to Dungy's philosophy is the belief that a leader's primary role is to help others improve and succeed. He outlines seven keys to effective mentoring leadership, illustrating how this approach fosters a positive environment where individuals feel valued and empowered. Dungy provides practical insights on recovering from mistakes, managing discipline, and inspiring commitment without resorting to intimidation. This book serves as a guide for anyone looking to lead with integrity and purpose, whether in sports, business, or personal life.

This work has a profound influence on the field of Christian leadership development by promoting values of service, humility, and mentorship. Dungy’s approach aligns with biblical principles, emphasizing the leader's role in nurturing and uplifting others. By encouraging leaders to focus on the growth and well-being of their team members, *The Mentor Leader* provides a framework for cultivating strong, cohesive teams rooted in trust and mutual respect. This servant-leadership model resonates with Christian teachings, inspiring leaders to embody Christ-like qualities in their leadership journey and to create environments where everyone can thrive.

Greenleaf, Robert K., and Larry C. Spears. *Servant Leadership: A Journey into the Nature of Legitimate Power and Greatness*. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 2002.

In *Servant Leadership*, Robert K. Greenleaf presents a groundbreaking framework for leadership that prioritizes serving others as the highest calling for leaders. Greenleaf argues that the true measure of leadership is not power or authority but the ability to serve and uplift those around you. He explores the characteristics of servant leaders and how they create environments conducive to growth, collaboration, and trust. Through this work, Greenleaf invites business leaders, government officials, and all individuals in positions of authority to embrace a mindset that values the needs of others above their own, fostering a culture of service and mutual respect.

This classic text influences the field of Christian leadership development by aligning closely with biblical teachings on servanthood and humility. Greenleaf’s principles resonate with the example set by Jesus, who modeled servant leadership through acts of love and selflessness. By advocating for leaders to adopt a servant mindset, *Servant Leadership* offers a transformative approach that challenges conventional leadership paradigms. It inspires leaders to cultivate a legacy that prioritizes the well-being and empowerment of others, creating communities rooted in love and service that reflect Christian values in both professional and personal contexts.

Marklein, Bill. *Endless Bloom: Planting Emotional Intelligence for Positive Growth.* https://www.employhumanity.com/: Employ Humanity LLC, 2020.

In *Endless Bloom*, Bill Marklein emphasizes the importance of emotional intelligence (EI) as a foundational skill for effective leadership and personal growth. He outlines practical strategies for cultivating EI, such as self-awareness, empathy, and interpersonal skills, which can significantly enhance an individual’s ability to lead and connect with others. Through relatable anecdotes and actionable insights, Marklein illustrates how leaders can create a positive organizational culture that fosters collaboration and resilience. The book serves as a guide for those seeking to improve their emotional intelligence, empowering them to navigate complex social dynamics and promote a thriving environment.

This work has a significant influence on the field of Christian leadership development by aligning emotional intelligence with biblical principles of compassion, understanding, and servant leadership. As leaders cultivate EI, they become better equipped to embody the character of Christ in their interactions, prioritizing the emotional and spiritual well-being of those they lead. *Endless Bloom* encourages Christian leaders to embrace vulnerability and authenticity, fostering deeper relationships within their communities. By integrating emotional intelligence into their leadership approach, individuals can promote a culture of empathy and support that reflects Christ's love and compassion in action, ultimately enhancing their effectiveness as leaders.

Marklein, Bill. *Limitless Rise: Elevating Emotional Intelligence to Achieve Excellence.* https://www.employhumanity.com/: Employ Humanity LLC, 2021.

In *Limitless Rise*, Bill Marklein explores the critical role of emotional intelligence (EI) in achieving personal and professional excellence. He provides a comprehensive framework for developing EI, emphasizing self-awareness, emotional regulation, empathy, and effective communication. Through practical exercises and real-life examples, Marklein illustrates how enhanced emotional intelligence can lead to stronger relationships, better decision-making, and greater resilience in the face of challenges. The book serves as both a guide and a motivational resource for individuals seeking to elevate their leadership capabilities and foster a culture of excellence.

This work significantly influences the field of Christian leadership development by aligning the principles of emotional intelligence with biblical teachings on compassion, humility, and community engagement. By prioritizing emotional intelligence, Christian leaders can create environments that reflect the love and understanding exemplified by Christ. Marklein encourages leaders to cultivate their EI not only for personal gain but to serve and uplift those around them, fostering collaboration and support within their communities. *Limitless Rise* acts as a catalyst for leaders to embody Christ-like qualities, reinforcing the idea that true excellence in leadership is rooted in the ability to connect with and uplift others through empathy and service.

Marklein, Bill. *Priceless Cheese: Leadership Lessons from the Cheese Counter.* https://www.employhumanity.com/: Employ Humanity LLC, 2023.

In *Priceless Cheese*, Bill Marklein creatively draws leadership lessons from the unique environment of a cheese counter, illustrating how everyday experiences can impart valuable insights for effective leadership. Through engaging anecdotes and relatable scenarios, Marklein emphasizes the significance of patience, attentiveness, and the art of communication in nurturing relationships with team members and customers alike. He encourages leaders to cultivate a mindset of service, adaptability, and continuous learning, promoting a more human-centered approach to leadership that prioritizes connection and collaboration.

This book significantly influences the field of Christian leadership development by reinforcing the notion that leadership is not merely about authority but about serving others with humility and love. Marklein’s lessons resonate with biblical principles of stewardship and relational leadership, encouraging leaders to view their roles as opportunities to foster community and nurture the potential within their teams. By integrating the lessons learned from the cheese counter, Christian leaders can embrace a holistic approach that reflects Christ's example of servant leadership, creating environments where individuals feel valued and empowered to grow. *Priceless Cheese* serves as a reminder that impactful leadership often emerges from simple, everyday interactions grounded in love and respect for others.

Marklein, Bill. *Relentless Glow: 100 Emotionally Intelligent Affirmations for Personal and Team Excellence.* https://www.employhumanity.com/: Employ Humanity LLC, 2021.

In *Relentless Glow*, Bill Marklein presents a collection of 100 affirmations designed to enhance emotional intelligence and promote personal and team excellence. Each affirmation is accompanied by insights that encourage self-reflection and intentional growth in key areas such as empathy, resilience, and collaboration. Marklein emphasizes the power of positive thinking and its role in shaping not only individual behaviors but also the collective culture within teams. By focusing on emotionally intelligent practices, the book provides readers with practical tools to foster a supportive and thriving work environment.

This work profoundly influences the field of Christian leadership development by integrating the concept of emotional intelligence with a biblical foundation for personal growth and community building. The affirmations serve as a means for Christian leaders to align their daily practices with scriptural principles, reinforcing the importance of uplifting others and cultivating an atmosphere of grace and understanding. Marklein’s emphasis on team excellence resonates with the call for unity and mutual support found in Christian teachings, encouraging leaders to lead with love and purpose. Ultimately, *Relentless Glow* empowers leaders to embrace their role as facilitators of emotional and spiritual growth, promoting a culture that reflects Christ's teachings and values.

Marklein, Bill. *Noiseless Pause: 100 Emotionally Intelligent Questions for Self-Discovery.* https://www.employhumanity.com/: Employ Humanity LLC, 2021.

In *Noiseless Pause*, Bill Marklein presents a thought-provoking collection of 100 questions designed to foster self-discovery and enhance emotional intelligence. Each question invites readers to engage in deep reflection, helping them understand their thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. Marklein emphasizes the importance of creating a quiet space for introspection, allowing individuals to confront their challenges and recognize their strengths. This process of self-examination not only promotes personal growth but also enhances interpersonal relationships by encouraging empathy and understanding.

This book significantly impacts the field of Christian leadership development by encouraging leaders to embrace self-reflection as a vital component of effective leadership. The questions in *Noiseless Pause* align with biblical principles of humility and introspection, inviting leaders to examine their motivations and actions in light of their faith. By promoting emotional intelligence through self-discovery, Marklein empowers Christian leaders to cultivate greater empathy and compassion in their interactions, fostering a community built on trust and support. Ultimately, *Noiseless Pause* serves as a valuable tool for leaders seeking to deepen their understanding of themselves and their relationship with God, enabling them to lead with greater authenticity and purpose.

Oke, Janette, and Davis Bunn. *The Centurion's Wife*. Acts of Faith Book 1. Grand Rapids: Bethany House Publishers, 2009.

*The Centurion's Wife* by Janette Oke and Davis Bunn is a historical fiction set in first-century Palestine, weaving biblical history with the personal struggles of its characters. The story follows Leah, a young Jewish woman of mixed heritage, who becomes entangled in the events following the crucifixion of Jesus. Leah is assigned by her mistress to uncover the truth behind Jesus’ death, while the Roman centurion Alban is tasked with investigating the same events for political purposes. Their parallel journeys unfold in the midst of personal turmoil and cultural tensions, allowing readers to experience the birth of Christianity through a deeply human perspective.

This work contributes to Christian leadership development by illustrating the inner conflict of leaders grappling with faith, duty, and personal identity. The novel's exploration of loyalty, both to human relationships and to divine calling, reflects the struggles that many Christian leaders face when balancing competing priorities. The story offers insight into servant leadership, as both Leah and Alban confront personal ambitions and find themselves challenged by a higher, God-centered purpose. Through vivid storytelling, Oke and Bunn model leadership grounded in humility, moral integrity, and a quest for truth.

Oke, Janette, and Davis Bunn. *The Hidden Flame*. Acts of Faith Book 2. Grand Rapids: Bethany House Publishers, 2010.

*The Hidden Flame*, the second book in Janette Oke and Davis Bunn’s Acts of Faith series, continues to explore the lives of early Christians through the story of Abigail. After losing everything, Abigail finds purpose in following the Messiah, only to be faced with personal and communal struggles. As persecution against believers intensifies, she navigates love, faith, and loyalty, drawn to Stephen, a leader of The Way. However, Stephen’s bold preaching places him in grave danger, adding tension to Abigail’s decisions about her future and faith. Her inner conflict reflects the broader challenges faced by the early Christian community as they spread the gospel under threat.

This novel contributes to the field of Christian leadership development by highlighting themes of perseverance, sacrifice, and courage in the face of adversity. Abigail’s journey demonstrates the importance of aligning personal desires with a higher calling, a central challenge for Christian leaders. The character of Stephen exemplifies servant leadership, as he risks his life to spread the message of Christ. *The Hidden Flame* underscores the transformative power of faith, offering a model of leadership rooted in conviction, resilience, and unwavering trust in God’s plan, even in times of overwhelming difficulty.

Oke, Janette, and Davis Bunn. *The Damascus Way*. Acts of Faith Book 3. Grand Rapids: Bethany House Publishers, 2011.

*The Damascus Way*, the final installment of Janette Oke and Davis Bunn’s Acts of Faith series, follows the lives of Julia and Jacob as they navigate their faith and identity within the early Christian movement. Julia, a girl of mixed heritage, struggles with rejection from both Jews and Gentiles. When she encounters the followers of the Way, she finds acceptance and a new purpose. Meanwhile, Jacob, Abigail’s brother, wrestles with balancing his faith and the thrill of working as a caravan guard. Both characters are drawn into the dangerous mission of secretly transporting valuable goods and messages between Christian communities, testing their courage, trust, and growing connection.

This novel enriches Christian leadership development by depicting the challenges of navigating faith in hostile environments and the importance of community support. Jacob’s journey emphasizes the tension between personal ambitions and spiritual calling, a common dilemma for modern Christian leaders. His eventual shift toward a faith-centered purpose mirrors the servant leadership model, where self-sacrifice and service to others are paramount. *The Damascus Way* also portrays the power of perseverance, humility, and collaboration in the face of adversity, offering lessons for leaders seeking to balance faith, personal struggles, and the call to serve.

Rivers, Francine. *A Voice in the Wind*. Mark of the Lion Series Book 1. Carol Stream: Tyndale House Publishers, 1993.

In *A Voice in the Wind*, Francine Rivers transports readers to first-century Rome, where Hadassah, a young Jewish girl sold into slavery, becomes a beacon of faith in a corrupt and violent empire. Despite the temptations and dangers surrounding her, Hadassah clings to her trust in God, even as she finds herself falling for Marcus, a Roman aristocrat. Her story vividly contrasts the moral decay of the Roman Empire with the power of faith, resilience, and sacrifice. Through her quiet strength, Hadassah becomes a light in the midst of depravity, demonstrating that true courage is rooted in unwavering faith.

This novel impacts Christian leadership development by illustrating the challenges of living out faith in hostile environments. Hadassah’s humility, steadfastness, and servanthood under immense pressure provide a profound example of Christ-centered leadership. Her story invites readers to reflect on how faith can transform not only individual lives but also entire communities. Rivers’ portrayal of Hadassah challenges modern Christian leaders to embrace vulnerability, persistence, and compassion, even when faced with personal risk or opposition. Through vivid storytelling, *A Voice in the Wind* emphasizes that leadership grounded in faith can inspire lasting change in the lives of others.

Rivers, Francine. *An Echo in the Darkness*. Mark of the Lion Series Book 2. Carol Stream: Tyndale House Publishers, 1994.

*An Echo in the Darkness* continues the saga of Hadassah and Marcus, delving deeper into themes of redemption, forgiveness, and faith. Thought to be dead, Hadassah works in the poorest parts of Rome, aiding a doctor and using her faith to heal others. When Julia, her former mistress and tormentor, falls ill, Hadassah is faced with the moral dilemma of whether to return to the Valerian household, risking her life to embody Christ’s call to love one’s enemies. Meanwhile, Marcus embarks on a spiritual journey, leaving behind the excesses of Roman society in search of a deeper truth, haunted by his connection to Hadassah.

This novel is a significant resource for Christian leadership development, focusing on the transformative power of sacrificial love and forgiveness. Hadassah’s unwavering faith in God’s ability to heal, both physically and spiritually, challenges leaders to respond to difficult circumstances with grace and compassion. Her willingness to forgive and serve her oppressor models the essence of servant leadership, which is rooted in humility and selflessness. Marcus’s journey of soul-searching highlights the inner transformation that is central to leadership, as he learns to abandon worldly pursuits in favor of a life shaped by divine purpose.

Rivers, Francine. *As Sure as the Dawn*. Mark of the Lion Series Book 3. Carol Stream: Tyndale House Publishers, 1995.

In *As Sure as the Dawn*, the concluding novel in Francine Rivers’ Mark of the Lion series, the focus shifts to Atretes, a former Germanic gladiator, and Rizpah, a Christian widow who has been caring for Atretes’ son. As Atretes embarks on a mission to reclaim his child and return to Germania, he is met with resistance from Rizpah, whose love and devotion to the baby complicate his plans. Meanwhile, Hadassah remains imprisoned, and Marcus continues his search for God amidst the emotional and spiritual upheaval in his family. Atretes’ internal struggle between vengeance and the transformative power of Christian love unfolds alongside his growing relationship with Rizpah.

The novel contributes to Christian leadership development by highlighting the power of love, transformation, and surrender to God’s will. Atretes, initially driven by anger and self-interest, learns from Rizpah’s faith and resilience, ultimately embracing a path of spiritual growth and humility. Rizpah’s unwavering devotion and courage in the face of adversity exemplify servant leadership, challenging readers to see leadership as rooted in love and sacrifice. Rivers weaves together themes of forgiveness, redemption, and the cost of following Christ, offering valuable lessons for leaders seeking to balance strength with compassion and personal desires with God’s calling.

Rivers, Francine. *Redeeming Love*. New York: Multnomah Publishers, 1997.

*Redeeming Love* is Francine Rivers’ bestselling retelling of the biblical story of Hosea and Gomer, set against the backdrop of California’s Gold Rush in 1850. The novel follows Angel, a woman sold into prostitution as a child, whose heart is hardened by betrayal and abuse. When Michael Hosea, a godly man, feels called by God to marry and love her, he begins a journey to win her trust and guide her toward healing. Angel’s struggle with feelings of unworthiness and her constant flight from Michael’s unconditional love reflect a deep need for divine restoration, which ultimately comes when she turns to God for redemption.

This novel has a profound influence on Christian leadership development by illustrating the transformative power of unconditional love and grace. Michael’s steadfast commitment to loving Angel mirrors God’s pursuit of His people, emphasizing the leader’s role as a vessel of God’s grace, even in the face of rejection or resistance. The story encourages Christian leaders to exhibit patience, empathy, and forgiveness, especially when working with those who are deeply wounded. Through Michael’s sacrificial love and Angel’s eventual redemption, *Redeeming Love* underscores the importance of faithfulness, not only in relationships but also in following God’s call to lead with compassion and understanding.

Rivers, Francine. *Unveiled: Tamar*. Lineage of Grace Series Book 1. Colorado Springs: Multnomah, 2002.

*Unveiled: Tamar*, the first book in Francine Rivers’ Lineage of Grace series, tells the story of Tamar, a pivotal yet often overlooked figure in biblical history. Betrayed by those who wielded power over her, Tamar's journey is marked by resilience and courage as she seeks to honor her faith in a loving God amid adversity. Rivers crafts a narrative that not only illuminates Tamar's personal struggles but also highlights the broader theme of divine purpose fulfilled through unlikely circumstances. The story serves as a poignant reminder that God can use flawed and marginalized individuals to bring about His plans.

In the realm of Christian leadership development, Tamar’s story is particularly influential. Her determination to advocate for her rights and her commitment to her faith resonate deeply with leaders who face challenges in their own journeys. As someone who has read and gifted this series multiple times, I have found that the extreme care Rivers takes to align the narratives with Scripture while maintaining historical accuracy has greatly influenced my ministry. Tamar exemplifies the strength needed to confront societal norms and assert one's identity in Christ, encouraging contemporary leaders to cultivate resilience and integrity. With limited Christian female role models in my life, the stories of these five women, including Tamar, have been instrumental in guiding my walk with Christ and inspire me to serve the Lord in both significant and everyday ways. By showcasing how God can work through our struggles and imperfections, Rivers inspires current and future leaders to embrace their unique paths, embodying faith and courage in the face of adversity.

Rivers, Francine. *Unashamed: Rahab*. Lineage of Grace Series Book 2. Colorado Springs: Multnomah, 2002.

*Unashamed: Rahab* is the second installment in Francine Rivers' Lineage of Grace series, which explores the lives of five remarkable women in the lineage of Jesus Christ. This novella focuses on Rahab, a woman with a troubled past who demonstrates resilience and faith amid adversity. Exploited and marginalized, Rahab's unwavering trust in God leads her to act courageously, ultimately allowing her to become a pivotal figure in biblical history. Rivers’ portrayal of Rahab serves to highlight the transformative power of faith and God's redemptive love, which transcends past mistakes.

This narrative influences the field of Christian leadership development by exemplifying how personal history does not disqualify individuals from fulfilling God’s purpose. Rahab’s story challenges leaders to embrace their identity in Christ, regardless of their past, and to recognize the potential in others who may feel marginalized or unworthy. By emphasizing the importance of faithfulness and courage, Rivers encourages contemporary leaders to foster environments where people can thrive spiritually and personally, mirroring the grace extended to Rahab. This novella serves as a reminder that leadership often arises from unexpected places, inspiring leaders to champion inclusivity and redemption within their communities.

Rivers, Francine. *Unshaken: Ruth*. Lineage of Grace Series Book 3. Colorado Springs: Multnomah, 2003.

*Unshaken: Ruth* is the third installment in Francine Rivers' Lineage of Grace series, which chronicles the lives of five remarkable women in the lineage of Jesus Christ. This novella focuses on Ruth, whose extraordinary loyalty to her mother-in-law Naomi exemplifies unwavering commitment and resilience in the face of adversity. Rivers artfully portrays Ruth's journey of loss, hope, and eventual redemption, demonstrating that faithfulness in difficult times can lead to profound blessings.

In the context of Christian leadership development, Ruth's story serves as a powerful model for leaders who face challenges and uncertainty. Her dedication to Naomi reflects the importance of relational leadership and the value of standing by others in their moments of need. By illustrating how God honors loyalty and faith, Rivers inspires readers to cultivate a spirit of service and perseverance in their own leadership journeys. This novella encourages Christian leaders to trust in God’s provision, even when circumstances appear bleak, reinforcing the idea that true leadership is often rooted in humility, compassion, and unwavering faith.

Rivers, Francine. Unspoken: Bathsheba. Lineage of Grace Series Book 4. Colorado Springs: Multnomah, 2005.

*Unspoken: Bathsheba* is the fourth installment in Francine Rivers' Lineage of Grace series, exploring the complex life of Bathsheba, who is often remembered for her scandalous affair with King David. Rivers challenges readers to look beyond the surface of Bathsheba's narrative, delving into her struggles and the pain that marked her journey. Through Bathsheba's eyes, the novella portrays the profound truth of God’s grace and redemption, highlighting that even those with a troubled past can be restored and used for His divine purposes.

In the context of Christian leadership development, Bathsheba's story serves as a poignant reminder of the power of repentance and the potential for transformation. Her journey illustrates the importance of vulnerability, humility, and reliance on God in leadership roles. By embracing her flaws and seeking God’s forgiveness, Bathsheba emerges as a figure of resilience and strength. This narrative encourages leaders to acknowledge their imperfections and pursue a deeper relationship with God, reinforcing the idea that true leadership is rooted in grace, humility, and the willingness to seek restoration. Rivers’ work ultimately inspires readers to embrace their stories and recognize that God can use even the most broken individuals to fulfill His plans.

Rivers, Francine. Unafraid: Mary. Lineage of Grace Series Book 5. Colorado Springs: Multnomah, 2005.

In *Unafraid: Mary*, the final book in Francine Rivers' Lineage of Grace series, readers encounter the story of Mary, the mother of Jesus. This narrative emphasizes her ordinary beginnings, illustrating that her extraordinary faith and simple obedience to God's call exemplify a model of leadership rooted in humility and trust. Rivers delves into the complexities of Mary’s role, highlighting her struggles and the immense responsibility placed upon her as the bearer of the Messiah. Through Mary’s journey, the novella illustrates the powerful impact of unwavering faith in the face of societal pressures and personal sacrifice.

This portrayal of Mary influences the field of Christian leadership development by presenting a biblical figure who embodies the principles of servant leadership and obedience to divine calling. Her story encourages current and future leaders to embrace their God-given roles, reminding them that greatness often arises from humility and faithfulness. As leaders reflect on Mary’s example, they are inspired to cultivate a leadership style characterized by responsiveness to God’s voice, resilience in the face of challenges, and a commitment to serving others, thereby enriching their understanding of effective Christian leadership.

Rivers, Francine. *The Priest: Aaron*. Sons of Encouragement Series Book 1. Colorado Springs: Multnomah, 2005.

*The Priest: Aaron* is the inaugural book in Francine Rivers' Sons of Encouragement series, which delves into the life of Aaron, the older brother of Moses, exploring his pivotal role as a leader and mediator for the Israelites. Rivers portrays Aaron as a figure whose courage and faithfulness enable him to fulfill his divine calling, showcasing how his sacrifices and steadfastness are integral to the community's spiritual journey. This narrative invites readers to reflect on the complexities of leadership and the essential qualities of humility, empathy, and strength required to guide others.

In the context of Christian leadership development, Rivers' portrayal of Aaron provides valuable insights into servant leadership. By emphasizing Aaron’s supportive role alongside Moses and his commitment to God’s calling, the book challenges contemporary leaders to prioritize the needs of their communities over personal ambition. As a woman, I find it enlightening to engage with these biblical figures, as I have no frame of understanding for the pressures and responsibilities of being a man in leadership, nor do I envy those challenges. This perspective helps me appreciate my husband’s unique pressures and expectations in ministry. The themes of sacrifice and intercession illustrated through Aaron’s life resonate with the biblical concept of servant leadership, encouraging leaders to cultivate a character grounded in faith and selflessness. Ultimately, these five male leadership case studies serve as invaluable resources for both understanding and supporting one another in our respective roles, fostering a greater appreciation for the distinct yet equally valid paths we each walk in service to God.

Rivers, Francine. *The Warrior: Caleb*. Sons of Encouragement Series Book 2. Colorado Springs: Multnomah, 2005.

*The Warrior: Caleb* is the second book in Francine Rivers' Sons of Encouragement series, which centers on Caleb, a biblical figure known for his unwavering faith and courage. Rivers portrays Caleb as a passionate leader whose words inspired the Israelites to act in faith, particularly during the daunting task of conquering the Promised Land. Through vivid storytelling, she captures the essence of Caleb's character—his fiery zeal, steadfast loyalty to God, and willingness to stand against the tide of doubt that plagued his peers. The novella serves not only as a retelling of Caleb's life but also as a motivational narrative that resonates with contemporary leaders seeking to inspire others.

This work influences the field of Christian leadership development by exemplifying the qualities of a faithful leader. Caleb's story encourages leaders to embrace courage, act decisively, and inspire others to pursue their collective mission. Rivers' portrayal of Caleb highlights the importance of passion and action in leadership, reminding readers that true influence often comes from unwavering faith and determination. By illustrating these principles through Caleb's life, *The Warrior* challenges modern Christian leaders to reflect on their own callings, fostering a culture of active faith and communal encouragement within their communities.

Rivers, Francine. *The Prince: Jonathan*. Sons of Encouragement Series Book 3. Colorado Springs: Multnomah, 2005.

*The Prince: Jonathan* is the third book in Francine Rivers' Sons of Encouragement series, focusing on the compelling biblical character Jonathan, the best friend of David. Rivers artfully depicts Jonathan as a model of selflessness, humility, and unwavering faith. His loyalty to David and commitment to God illustrate the profound impact of supportive friendships in leadership contexts. The narrative highlights Jonathan’s courage to place the kingdom’s future above his own ambitions, setting a powerful example of servant leadership that resonates within Christian communities.

This novella influences the field of Christian leadership development by emphasizing the importance of humility, loyalty, and the courage to empower others in leadership roles. Rivers' portrayal of Jonathan’s character challenges contemporary leaders to recognize that true leadership often involves supporting and uplifting others rather than seeking personal gain. By showcasing the dynamics of Jonathan and David's friendship, Rivers encourages readers to cultivate relationships that foster collaboration and mutual respect, essential elements for effective Christian leadership. This work serves as a valuable resource for those aspiring to lead with integrity and purpose, reminding them of the transformative power of selfless service in their leadership journeys.

Rivers, Francine. *The Prophet: Amos*. Sons of Encouragement Series Book 4. Colorado Springs: Multnomah, 2005.

*The Prophet: Amos* is the fourth installment in Francine Rivers' Sons of Encouragement series, exploring the life of the biblical prophet Amos. Rivers portrays Amos as a figure of solitude and conviction, who stands firm in his faith amid a rebellious society. The narrative emphasizes his call to speak God's truth, challenging both leaders and followers to heed divine warnings. This compelling depiction of Amos underscores the importance of prophetic voices in leadership and the responsibility of leaders to uphold moral integrity, even in the face of widespread corruption and complacency.

The book contributes to the field of Christian leadership development by illustrating how a leader’s commitment to their calling can impact their community. Through Amos, readers learn that true leadership is often marked by courage and a willingness to confront uncomfortable truths. This resonates with contemporary leadership principles, emphasizing the need for leaders to be attuned to God’s voice and to courageously advocate for justice and righteousness. Rivers' storytelling invites readers to reflect on their own leadership roles and the imperative of standing firm in faith, thus providing valuable insights for anyone seeking to lead with integrity in a challenging world.

Rivers, Francine. *The Scribe: The Biblical Story of Silas*. Sons of Encouragement Series Book 5. Colorado Springs: Multnomah, 2005.

*The Scribe: The Biblical Story of Silas* concludes Francine Rivers’ Sons of Encouragement series by illuminating the life of Silas, a key figure in early Christianity who served as a scribe and companion to prominent apostles like Peter and Paul. Rivers portrays Silas as a man of wealth and privilege who chooses humility and obedience, ultimately dedicating his life to preserving and disseminating the teachings of Christ. Through rich character development, Rivers emphasizes the transformative power of faith and service, demonstrating that leadership can take many forms, including behind-the-scenes roles.

This novella influences the field of Christian leadership development by challenging conventional notions of leadership that often prioritize visibility and authority. Silas’s story illustrates that true leadership can also manifest through support, service, and dedication to a greater cause. By showcasing Silas as a faithful steward of the Gospel, Rivers encourages aspiring leaders to embrace humility and recognize the impact of their contributions, regardless of their public recognition. This narrative serves as a reminder that effective Christian leadership involves serving others and faithfully carrying out God’s mission, inspiring readers to cultivate a spirit of servanthood in their own lives and communities.

Dissertations

Bergen, Ritchard George. 2024. "The Art of Giving Away Leadership: A Qualitative Study of Servant Leadership in Practice." Order No. 31142676, Regent University, https://www.proquest.com/dissertations-theses/art-giving-away-leadership-qualitative-study/docview/3020822111/se-2. ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I; ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global: The Humanities and Social Sciences Collection.

Bergen's dissertation explores the dynamics of "giving away leadership" within organizations, focusing on how servant leaders empower followers while maintaining a respectful organizational culture. Drawing on interviews with ten servant leaders across multiple countries, the study reveals key themes including the use of servant behavior, the importance of social skills, cultural awareness, and the balance between authority and empowerment. This work is particularly significant in Christian leadership development as it presents practical models for leadership that align with biblical principles of humility and empowerment, such as those exemplified by Jesus in scripture. The emphasis on shared leadership within hierarchical structures offers a roadmap for Christian organizations seeking to foster community and growth through decentralized leadership models.

Bergen’s work contributes to Christian leadership development by providing actionable insights into how to cultivate servant leaders who can pass on leadership responsibilities effectively. The research underscores the importance of leadership styles that prioritize follower growth, making it a vital resource for those developing programs aimed at nurturing leaders in faith-based contexts. It expands on the concept of leadership as service and highlights practical methods for embedding servant leadership principles into organizational culture, which is particularly resonant within Christian ministry settings.

Bosire, Nancy K. 2024. "Spiritual Grounding as an Influence on Servant Leadership Practice Among Senior Executives in U.S. Publicly Traded Companies." Order No. 31300822, Anderson University, South Carolina, https://www.proquest.com/dissertations-theses/spiritual-grounding-as-influence-on-servant/docview/3084302463/se-2. ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I; ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global: The Humanities and Social Sciences Collection.

Nancy K. Bosire investigates the intersection of spiritual grounding and servant leadership among senior executives in U.S. publicly traded companies. Her study identifies a significant relationship between executives' personal spirituality and their practice of servant leadership, arguing that spiritual grounding enhances their ability to lead with empathy, ethical behavior, and organizational stewardship. The study challenges the notion that spiritual leadership must be grounded in authoritative religious texts, instead suggesting that personal spirituality plays a more significant role. This is particularly relevant for Christian leadership development, as it underscores the importance of personal faith and spiritual values in leadership practices, even in secular corporate environments.

Bosire’s work is pivotal in broadening the understanding of servant leadership within Christian leadership development. It provides a nuanced perspective by demonstrating that spiritual practices, though not always tied to traditional Christian doctrines, remain vital in shaping ethical, empathetic, and effective leadership. Her findings suggest that Christian leaders can benefit from fostering personal spiritual growth to enhance their servant leadership abilities in both faith-based and secular organizations.

Chapman, Dennis Glen. 2024. "Servant Leadership and Teacher Retention at Independent Schools: Examining the Role of the Head of School." Order No. 31143692, University of Pennsylvania, https://www.proquest.com/dissertations-theses/servant-leadership-teacher-retention-at/docview/3069048948/se-2. ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I; ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global: The Humanities and Social Sciences Collection; Publicly Available Content Database.

This dissertation investigates how servant leadership impacts teacher retention, specifically within faith-based educational institutions. Maxwell’s research focuses on school leaders who implement servant leadership practices to support, empower, and retain teachers. The qualitative study emphasizes that servant leaders play a crucial role in fostering a positive school environment where teachers feel valued and heard. Through the use of interviews and case studies, Maxwell demonstrates that servant leadership can reduce turnover by enhancing teachers’ sense of job satisfaction and commitment. This insight is critical for understanding the specific leadership styles that contribute to teacher stability in faith-based schools.

In the context of Christian leadership development, this dissertation is instrumental in highlighting the alignment between servant leadership values and the retention of quality educators. It provides evidence for the role of empathy, stewardship, and a commitment to individual growth in the development of sustainable leadership within Christian education settings. By showcasing the positive impact of servant leadership on staff retention, the study suggests a direct link between leadership style and the overall mission efficacy of Christian institutions, offering guidance for schools seeking to develop leaders who embody the values of service and care.

Halton, Annjanette. 2024. "Servant Leaders and the Role of Personal Values in Servant Leadership Behavior." Order No. 31332015, Capella University, https://www.proquest.com/dissertations-theses/servant-leaders-role-personal-values-leadership/docview/3068913123/se-2. ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I; ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global: The Humanities and Social Sciences Collection.

This dissertation examines the significant influence of personal values on servant leadership behavior within U.S. corporations. Halton's qualitative research, guided by Schwartz's theory of basic human values, highlights how values such as altruism, empowerment, and stewardship shape the actions of servant leaders. The study fills a gap in current literature by directly addressing the relationship between servant leaders' personal values and their leadership behaviors, underscoring the role these values play in influencing positive outcomes for employees and organizations. The findings contribute to the broader field of Christian leadership development by validating the idea that effective servant leadership involves a strong alignment between personal values and organizational practices, promoting a deeper understanding of value-based leadership in fostering a compassionate work culture.

This research influences the field of Christian leadership development by providing a nuanced understanding of how personal values underpin effective leadership within faith-driven organizations. It argues for the intentional cultivation of personal values that align with servant leadership principles, which are foundational in Christian teachings. By empirically establishing the link between personal values and servant behavior, this dissertation provides practical insights for developing leadership programs that emphasize values-based training, which is critical for developing future Christian leaders.

Martinez, Mona-elo Victoria. 2024. "Leadership in Education Post-Pandemic: Examining the Relationship Between Perceived Servant Leadership Behaviors and Employee Organizational Commitment in K-12 and Higher Education Institutions." Order No. 31487689, Our Lady of the Lake University, https://www.proquest.com/dissertations-theses/leadership-education-post-pandemic-examining/docview/3086794076/se-2. ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I; ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global: The Humanities and Social Sciences Collection.

Mona-elo Victoria Martinez's dissertation explores the post-pandemic landscape of education leadership by analyzing the relationship between perceived servant leadership behaviors and employee organizational commitment. Using a sample of 350 full-time employees in K-12 and higher education institutions, the study finds that servant leadership strongly correlates with normative organizational commitment, though its impact on affective and continuance commitment remains limited. This dissertation adds to the field of Christian leadership development by emphasizing the role of servant leadership in maintaining organizational commitment during challenging times, such as the pandemic. It suggests that leaders in Christian educational settings can use servant leadership to enhance employee dedication, though supplementary strategies may be necessary to achieve comprehensive results across various commitment types.

The dissertation contributes to the Christian leadership discourse by showcasing how servant leadership can be strategically applied in educational contexts, particularly in a post-crisis environment. Martinez’s findings support the continued emphasis on servant leadership in fostering a service-oriented culture in schools and universities, aligning with Christian leadership values centered on care, service, and community support.

Parker, Nicole Stallings. 2024. "The Influence of Resilience on Servant Leadership." Order No. 31301715, Regent University, https://www.proquest.com/dissertations-theses/influence-resilience-on-servant-leadership/docview/3064082968/se-2. ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I; ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global: The Humanities and Social Sciences Collection.

Nicole Stallings Parker's dissertation addresses the critical role of resilience in servant leadership, particularly how resilience enables leaders to endure adversity while maintaining their commitment to serving others. Her study, based on interviews with self-declared resilient servant leaders, identifies key behavioral themes that link resilience to effective servant leadership, such as empathy, ethical behavior, and community service. Parker argues that resilience is essential for sustaining the servant leadership model, especially in times of crisis or environmental stress. This research enriches the field of Christian leadership development by highlighting resilience as a foundational attribute for servant leaders, reflecting the biblical principle of perseverance through trials.

Parker’s dissertation contributes to Christian leadership by providing a framework for understanding how resilience supports servant leadership, aligning with biblical teachings on enduring hardship and fostering growth through adversity. It encourages Christian leaders to cultivate resilience as a way to enhance their leadership effectiveness, particularly in environments where followers are facing significant challenges.