



Cultivate

A Christ-Centered Way of Life

... as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted, and built up in him and established in the faith... Colossians 2:6-7

FOLLOWERSHIP

By Marius Gradwell

Global positioning systems, also known as GPS, are satellite-based navigation networks that provide time and location information anywhere on earth to a corresponding GPS receiver. GPS first came on the scene in the early 1960s in the United States as a form of satellite navigation experiments to monitor submarines carrying military missiles. For almost twenty years, GPS was only available to the military.



In the early 80's the GPS was made available to the public. The first to buy one paid an arm and a leg. The one I purchased cost me almost R2000. Now, every smartphone has one.

Can you remember the days before the GPS? Maps, confusing directions, getting lost, leaving early to avoid coming late, etc.

GPS's are awesome. A GPS will tell me what to do. I follow it without any real reservations. The voice says to turn to the left in one kilometer, so I turn left in one kilometer. I follow. I trust. I obey.

When it comes to our GPS, it is all about following. However, when it comes to church, we talk little about following. We want leaders. We develop leaders. Pastors need to be leaders. The church needs more leadership.

I agree/disagree. I think that in place of leadership, the church needs more followership. Jesus said, "Follow me." The disciples were not focused on the top ten leadership principles. They

were watching Jesus and following Him. Even the great apostolic leader, Paul, said, "Follow me as I follow Christ." I am not denying that we need leaders. However, I think that we need to understand what a leader is and focus on the right thing.

My definition of leadership is this: **A leader is a follower being followed.**

I believe that we have made a mistake on this. We have focused on being followed, not on following. We concentrate on our leadership and ignore our followership.

Christ has called us to FOLLOW Him. As we FOLLOW Him, then our lives will intersect, impact and influence others ... TO FOLLOW Him. The goal is not to get ahead of people, or to be positioned over them, it is to get behind people and help them know God better and love Him more.

We need to repent of an idolatrous desire to seek a position of influence and authority rooted in our own insecure carnal selves that seek to exalt ourselves and manipulate/seduce/canvas others to follow our own personal dreams and ambitions, often disguised with Biblical terminology.

Let me say it this way. **If we are not leading people to become more like Christ, then we are leading them astray.**

If someone were to truly follow us, if they were to mimic our attitudes and copy our character, if they were to repeat our words and do our works, if they were to become like us ... would that mean that they were more like Jesus?

If our children truly follow us ... will they end up being like Jesus or just being well educated, financially successful individuals, we can feel proud about?

If our lives truly do lead people ... what are we leading them to become and where are we leading them? I believe that we should focus on the following:

- We should follow the heart of Jesus.
- We should follow the passion of Jesus.
- We should follow the leading of Jesus.
- We should follow the words of Jesus.
- We should follow the actions of Jesus.
- We should follow the example of Jesus.
- We should follow the works of Jesus.

We should follow. We should BE who we want others to BECOME.

I believe that we should stop the overemphasis on leadership and instead seek to become deeper, more passionate followers of Christ. If you are following Christ with all your heart, He will lead you to impact the lives of others, to help the poor, to reach the lost, to disciple the young, to influence your community ... in other words, following Him will make you a leader.

A true leader is one who helps those following him to become like the ONE he is following.