



## 4.4 We understand and actively work to guide and receive guidance from other Kingdom leaders in the marketplace.

### WHAT IS PEER LEADERSHIP?

When we talk about “peer leadership,” particularly in the context of Kingdom leadership in the marketplace, we mean a peer group being led or facilitated by someone who shares the Kingdom leadership experience (and perhaps other aspects of that identity) of the group members. This shared experience helps build trust, empathy, accountability, and safety, as well as role-modeling active leadership for group members.

It simply means a group of like-hearted, like-minded business leaders journeying through life together for a time. We journey **together** because God called us to live life as one with a group of believers. We also need to be with people who understand our experiences here on this earth so they can provide guidance and bolster our well-being.

### DON'T DO THIS ALONE

Typically, as an entrepreneur, you are very comfortable working alone. In some ways, it's how you are wired—to strike out and create something or solve something by yourself. You are not looking for someone to tell you what to do or how to do it. If you can learn from someone else you will, but it's not because you want to be under that person's authority. You learn from them because you need their knowledge to do what you need or want to do. You need guidance, not directives.

This is called “independence” and for many people it is extremely attractive and necessary in some ways. But let's not confuse this with leadership. Leadership is something else completely and is quite dependent. After all, if you look around and no one is following you, you are not leading. Leadership happens in a group of two or more.

However, though leadership happens within a group setting, it is not a shared activity. Ultimately, the vision and responsibility have to land somewhere. The leader of a group leads alone. Someone has to carry and cast the vision of where the group is going. Someone has to galvanize people and create a culture where they can work together. But often this someone, this leader, struggles to find a group where they can just be themselves. A group needs to be found in which a leader can grow and learn—a place where collaboration and partnerships take place while the role of facilitator is put temporarily aside.

**Q. As a leader, where do you go to find a group that gets you and your world?**

## ECCLESIA (OR EKKLESIA)

We are not going to go into a deep lesson about the church right now, but we need to understand something that Jesus did for us while He was here. He established the Church before He left. This is important because He did not want us to follow in His footsteps alone. His first introduction of this plan is in Matthew:

**Mathew 16:18** And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

The word “church” used here comes from a Greek word “ecclesia.” Webster’s Dictionary defines ecclesia as “a political assembly of citizens of ancient Greek states, especially the periodic meeting of the Athenian citizens for conducting public business and for considering affairs proposed by the council.”

Ecclesia, or church, then, is a group of people assembling together for a common purpose. Jesus created the Church for many reasons, one of which was to create a way for us to walk out our faith in a group, not by ourselves.

Jesus specifically left a group of believers behind in what He called the Church. He did not want this body of believers following Him alone, and this is as true for us today as it was for the early Church. It should be noted, however, that while a local congregation is meant to share the walk of faith, it does not always fill our *specific needs*.

**Q. Although being part of a church congregation is amazing, in your experience, are there some needs they could not meet?**

## WE NEED A *PEER* GROUP

Webster says that a peer is “one of equal standing with another” or “one belonging to the same societal group (that is, based on age, grade or status).” For our purposes we add shared faith and responsibility to the definition.

We need to be in a group that shares and understands our calling, our world, and our responsibility. We need a peer group. However, if we are going to be part of a group of people “of equal standing” we have to find that group within the larger group of believers in Jesus Christ. True peers share our values and purpose. Notice what Paul said to the Corinthian ecclesia (church):

**2 Corinthians 6:14-18** Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? (15) What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? (16) What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, “I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God they shall be my people. (17) Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, (18) and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.”

Read the following commentary on 2 Corinthians 6. We are told that **those whom we let influence us must share our relationship and commitment to Jesus Christ**.

*Five parallel statements communicate the first reason for Paul’s command. Believers should separate from pagans in this situation because there is a drastic division between their value systems.*

*There are (1) no shared values (partnership, lit., an affiliation involving common goals and actions) between those who practice righteousness and those who practice wickedness. (2) no intimate fellowship (warm, affectionate relations) between those who belong to the realm of light and those who belong to the realm of darkness. (3) no harmony of working together between the members of Christ and the members of Satan (Belial) (4) no shared commitment between those who believe in Christ and those who do not, and (5) no common ground between worship in the church (believers are now collectively the temple of the living God) and worship in pagan temples. (The Moody Bible Commentary, 2014, Page 1816)*

**Q. List some people who God has put in your life to influence you for His kingdom? Be thankful for them.**

Let's be clear. We are not talking about isolating ourselves from the world. After all, we are called by Christ to be in the world. The qualification was we are **not to be of the world**. If we are really going to be guided by a group of peers, we have to share the same world view and value set. For us as believers, this means our peers are found in the ecclesia, the Church. Note: this doesn't limit us to a local congregation, necessarily; the Church is alive worldwide. This is where our peer group must be found.

## FOR OUR GUIDANCE AND WELL-BEING

**Proverbs 27:17** Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.

**Ecclesiastes 4:12** And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

**Ecclesiastes 4:9-10** Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. (10) For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!

**Matthew 18:19-20** Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. (20) For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

You have a specific calling—to be a Kingdom leader in the marketplace. This requires specific skills, knowledge, and wisdom to accomplish. You need to flourish so those you lead will flourish with you.

For the sake of your well-being, you need others around you who have the same calling and are growing in the same skills, knowledge, and wisdom you are. Spending time with these people will sharpen you and you will sharpen them. Each member of the group flourishes as they love each other for the sake of the Kingdom.

## SUMMARY

We are called to lead in this world, but we are not called to do this alone. Christ has placed us in a group of believers, the Church, and within the Church we need a peer group who share and understand our specific calling to be Kingdom leaders in the marketplace. This group is given to us for our guidance and well-being. They will help us flourish and we will help them flourish.

## LEADERSHIP CONNECTION QUESTION

**Q. What value do you believe a peer group could be for you and what value to you believe you could be for them?**

## RESOURCES FOR NEXT STEPS

- **Read**  
*Ekklesia: Rediscovering God's Instrument for Global Transformation* by Ed Siloso  
<https://www.christianbook.com/ekklesia-rediscovering-gods-instrument-global-transformation/ed-siloso/9780800798567/pd/798563?event=PRCBD1>
- **RightNow Media@Work**  
*Tony Merida - Disciples Making Disciples*  
<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/content/details/113055>
- **Become part of a peer group if you haven't already**