

September 12, 2021

LSC 20th Year Anniversary: Built on Leadership

Today we celebrate the 20-year anniversary of LSC, and the 1-year anniversary of We The County. This is also the 20-year anniversary of 9-11 terrorist attack on America. LSC first started as **Lights of Hope Ministry** in Sandusky, in a building called "The Beacon" pastored by a man prophesied to be a "lighthouse." The first Sunday service was April 8, 2001, and it was Passover and Palm Sunday. God created Lights of Hope Ministry in 7 days; a complete "turn-key" church that was prophetically called forth. LSC was birthed with prophecy.

After 6 ½ years, we moved to our new location and we believe God led us to change our name to Life Song Church and to celebrate our anniversary the second weekend in September. September 11th is now known as "**Patriots Day**." Is it any wonder we have a strong Patriotic DNA? Freedom is not free. It cost the blood of Jesus Christ and of those willing to die to keep it. Jesus came to give us abundant life and liberty. He is our "Freedom Fighter." Without Jesus, there is no true freedom.

Jesus Christ, Yeshua Hamashiach is the **greatest Leader** of all time. He told twelve men to "Follow Me" and they did. Jesus also told the multitudes to "Follow Me." LSC is built on the **Leadership of Jesus Christ**, but what does that look like? How do we walk that out? Jesus gave His Church a Leadership structure to follow.

Mark 8:34-35 *When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and **follow Me**. 35 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it.*

The Apostle Paul said: **1 Cor 11:1** *Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.*

Imitate Strong's #3402; *mimetes* (mim-ay-tace), imitator, follower. Paul said, "Follow me as I follow Christ."

Heb 13:7-9 *Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, **whose faith follow**, considering the outcome of their conduct. 8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.*

Heb 13:17 *Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.*

"Christians are not only to remember past church leaders, but are to heed present leaders who are responsible in discharging their duties in providing spiritual oversight to the congregation. The **obedience** commanded denotes assenting to someone else's directions, and **submission** means yielding one's **contrary opinions** in favor of another's. The writer does not suggest blind, unquestioning obedience to everything a leader says." -Footnotes SFLB Heb 13:17

We follow Jesus by following Leaders in the church who live by faith and their conduct honors God. They walk in love, sincerity, humility, compassion, submission and unity. They are not perfect and are quick to repent. We all will follow someone, whether knowingly or subconsciously. All the voices we listen to, will impact us and influence us to **act and think** in a certain manner. Choose your voices wisely. Order and unity? Or chaos and division? Division means having two visions. This usually comes from two different opinions of the direction the church should go. For 20 years we have had people try to change our vision, our direction, but God is faithful and has a plan and a destiny for LSC and by the grace of God we will fulfill our destiny. LSC was created "for such a time as this."

The following is one of our very first documents from Lights of Hope Ministry from **Jan 11, 2002**. It is about Leadership, called "**Church Balance with Ministry**." We have 5 pillars which our Leadership Team was built on. **COUNSEL** – Wisdom and Accountability

1. **SINCERITY** – Openness and Honesty
2. **HUMILITY** – Respect for Others
3. **SERVANT HOOD** - Commitment with Submission
4. **DISCIPLINE** – Restoration through Forgiveness

5. COUNSEL – Wisdom and Accountability

Prov 11:14 *Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors there is safety.*

Prov 15:22 *Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counselors they are established.*

Prov 24:6 *For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in multitude of counselors there is safety.*

6. SINCERITY – Openness and Honesty

2 Cor 4:1-2 *Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.*

1 Cor 5:8 *Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.*

7. HUMILITY – Respect for Others

1 Peter 5:2-6 *Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; 3 Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. 4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away. 5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. 6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:*

8. SERVANT HOOD - Commitment with Submission

Matt 20:25-29 *But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. 26 But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; 27 And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: 28 Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many. 29 And as they departed from Jericho, a great multitude followed him.*

9. DISCIPLINE – Restoration through Forgiveness

Gal 6:1-5 *Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. 2 Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. 3 If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. 4 Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else, 5 for each one should carry his own load.*

This is our pledge as Leaders/Overseers. It was then and it is now. I remember reading this **pledge** to our congregation one Sunday morning nearly 20 years ago.

The Heart of an Overseer

“I will serve you with sincerity. I will be open and honest exposing my heart. In humility, as a child, I will receive your openness and honesty. If I get offended, I have sinned, please forgive me, and help restore me in the spirit of meekness. We will carry each other’s burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ.”

Are you truly following Jesus Christ? Have you picked up your cross and let go of the things of this world? Do you have a humble-submitted heart? Is Jesus your Lord and Savior?