

Leading Leaders Coaching Session #1



Leadership Competency: **Champion**

Key verse: Philippians 2:2

Key question: Am I a raving fan publicly and a thoughtful critic privately?

Description: A Champion understands, supports, and articulates the overall vision and leadership of CVC.

Connect:

1) What's new in your life?

Celebrate:

2) What's working well for you right now in your ministry?

Coach:

3) [Draw the CVC Vision frame.] What part of the CVC vision frame is most energizing to you?

4) What part of the CVC vision frame is most challenging to you?

5) In the Leadership Greenhouse - Leading Leaders - Podcast 1, Josh Stone said that being a champion is being "all in" or "on board" with our six passions. Which of our passions – Living Truth, God Dependence, Caring Community, Linked Generations, Equipped Leadership, Missional Living – energizes you the most? Why?

6) Which of the 6 passions would you consider to be the one in which you need to grow the most? Why?

7) In the podcast, you heard how being a champion might play out in worship: "Even if some of the music is not my favorite, I know it's important to "make space for people in other generations" – to "set the table so everyone can eat." How hard or easy is it for you to maintain that kind of mindset?

8) Why is it important for a leader of leaders to make music style a preference rather than a conviction?

Communicate:

[Together, read through the following article.]

14 Reasons for the Breakdown of Church Unity

by Thom Rainer

This post has a negative perspective to it. I freely admit it.

Sometimes we have to face the reality of a sickness before we are willing to seek treatment. Please read the next sentence carefully. *One of the greatest sicknesses in our churches in America is disunity.* Indeed, many of the problems we think we have are really just symptoms of the breakdown of unity in the church.

The early church in Jerusalem thrived because it was so unified. Acts 2:47 says: "(They were) praising God and having favor with all the people. And every day the Lord added to them those who were being saved" (HCSB). The phrase "having favor with all the people" refers to those on the outside looking at the church on the inside. They saw a selfless and unified church, and were thus attracted to it.

So what are some of the key reasons we are seeing the breakdown of unity in our churches? Though my list is not exhaustive, allow me to share fourteen of those reasons.

1. **Gossip.** Church members talk about one another instead of talking to one another. Paul calls church members who gossip people “filled with all unrighteousness” (Romans 1:29, HCSB).
2. **Actions cloaked in darkness.** I recently heard of a church personnel committee and a few church staff members who worked in darkness to fire a pastor without ever meeting with him first or giving him reasons for his dismissal. Then they refused to respond to church members who were asking questions.
3. **Failure to confront church bullies.** Some church members seek power in a church they can’t get elsewhere. They are devious and dangerous. They must be courageously confronted.
4. **Self-serving church members.** Some church members insist on getting their way for everything from worship style to the order of the worship service. Biblical church membership, however, is selfless and more concerned about others.
5. **Lack of prayer.** A church that does not pray together is likely to fragment into special interest groups.
6. **Fear of confrontation.** Too many church members would rather sweep problems under the rug than deal with them. I know of one church where two deacons were known to be having affairs. No one wanted to deal with it.
7. **Adopting the hypercritical spirit of culture.** This reality is especially true in blogs and social media. I’ve seen many pastors attacked publicly on Twitter and Facebook.
8. **Low expectations.** Many churches have no clear guidelines on what it means to be a part of the body of Christ. If you expect little from members, that’s exactly what you’ll get. And some of them will use their idle time to gossip, criticize, and tear down.
9. **No church discipline.** The majority of churches with which I have familiarity have no process for church discipline, or they have a process in place in theory only.
10. **Churches known more for what they are against rather than what they are for.** This negativity becomes pervasive in the congregation and destroys church unity.
11. **Fear of losing members.** I am familiar with one church plagued by a spirit of divisiveness by one particular member. No members have confronted him because they don’t want to lose one of the biggest givers in the church.
12. **Failure to be evangelistic.** I have never known a church member who is both evangelistic and divisive.
13. **Power groups.** Sometimes the bullies in the church get allies to form power groups. They may be informal groups, or they can be formal groups like elders, deacons, staff, or personnel committees.
14. **The silent and fearful majority.** One church member said it is not always good to know the truth. Such a statement is unbiblical and symptomatic of members who let evil exist because they are afraid to confront it.

One of the greatest problems in our churches is the breakdown of church unity. It is insidious, debilitating, and destructive. Paul urged us “to walk worthy of the calling you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, accepting one another in love, diligently keep the unity of the Spirit with the peace that binds us” (Ephesians 4: 1-3, HCSB). Jesus said in John 13:35: “By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

The breakdown of church unity is one of the most critical problems in our churches today. Are you part of the solution?

<http://thomrainer.com/2015/05/fourteen-key-reasons-for-the-breakdown-of-church-unity/>

9) What affirmed you most in Thom Rainer's article on church unity? Why?

10) What challenged you most in the article? Why?

11) Which of the 14 reasons for the breakdown of unity do you think is the greatest threat to our unity at CVC? How might you help eliminate that threat?

12) One of Pastor Chad Allen's favorite phrases is "unity doesn't mean uniformity." Explain why this is such an important concept in the life of a church. Discuss how unity within a church can still be intact and protected if a person is at least 80% "good to go" on a direction or an initiative.

13) In the Leadership Greenhouse – Leading Leaders - Podcast 1, you heard that a Champion ought to be a "raving fan publicly" and a "thoughtful critic privately." Unpack this. What does that mean to you? Why are both aspects important?

Care:

14) What actions do you need to take to be a better champion at CVC before our next conversation?

15) How can we pray for each other?