

Leadership Begins @ Home

By Mark Holmen

As the Senior Pastor of a large church with many staff I found myself consumed with being the very best leader I could be for my staff and people. I attended leadership conferences, read leadership books and even met with other leaders in my community so I could continue to grow as a leader. Yet, being completely honest with you, there were many times during those years that I would come home completely exhausted and empty and I would have nothing to give to my wife or daughter. By the time I would get home I didn't have the capacity to pray, read the Bible, listen or engage in any form of faith talk with them as all I wanted to do was collapse in the recliner and let some sort of ball game on TV take me away!

How many times have we seen pastors, who are seemingly doing a very successful job leading their churches, have marriages and families that fall apart? Could it be that in our zeal to be good leaders in our churches or businesses we are forgetting that true leadership begins in the home?

Research from the Barna Group brought us face to face with a harsh reality that less than 10% of church going households engage in prayer, (other than a mealtime prayer), Bible reading, devotions or worship in the home. It is clear that for many people today, faith is something you do at church or outsource to the church and this is having severe consequences that can be seen through:

- the number of Christian leaders we consistently see who have moral failures
- a divorce rate that is no better for Christian couples than non-Christian couples
- the fact that 60-90% of our children, who are participating in church programs today, are walking away from Christianity when they become young adults because they believe it is hypocritical

I didn't want to be one of those statistics and I didn't want the people I was leading to experience those things either, so I realised something needed to change and that something started with me. I needed to place a higher value on faith at home leadership both for myself and for my church. In fact it needed to become our highest priority, because what good is it if we are great leaders and people at church but not at home? That is hypocrisy in its truest form and I didn't want to perpetuate hypocrisy, which is why we committed ourselves to being faith at home focused church and people, and to helping other churches and individuals do the same. I am only a successful leader if I am successfully leading my family at home.

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