

The Joy and Pain of Transformational Leadership

Given to Student Leadership

Fall 2002

Romans 12:1-2

Ephesians 4

Introduction

1. Modeling is the primary method of Christian education for transformation
 - a. What is “modeling”? - Living out before others what you say you believe
 - Exemplifying
 - b. What do we mean by transformation? – it means “life changing” leadership
 - for the leader
 - for the follower
 - 1) I can't teach you to know, but how do I teach you to live the Christian life?
 - 2) I can tell you the rules, but how do I enable you to embrace the Christian faith?

I. What does it mean to “model” the message?

1. You walk your talk (Ephesians 4:25) Why?... “one body”... Respect and consistency
2. You sing your song (Ephesians 4:29) - kindness/encouragement
"God Wants to Hear You Sing"

1st Verse

Their chains were fastened tight down at the jail that night, still Paul and Silas would not be dismayed.

They said, "It's time to lift our voice...sing praises to the Lord....let's prove that we will trust him come what may."

2nd Verse

He loves to hear our praise on our cheerful days...when the pleasant times outweigh the bad by far.

But when suffering comes along and we still sing him songs, that is when we bless the father's heart.

Chorus

God wants to hear you sing when the waves are crashing 'round you, when the fiery darts surround you, when despair is all you see.

God wants to hear your voice when the wisest man has spoken and said your circumstance is as hopeless as can be.

That's when God wants to hear you sing.

3. You love your Lord – grow in your faith –

- a. Chapel
- b. Devotions
- c. Quiet times
- d. Accountability partners

4. You profess your faith – share your spiritual journey!

II. How do we void the “message” we seek to communicate?

1. Inconsistency
2. Indecisiveness
3. Duplicity (saying one thing and doing something else)
4. Impure motives
5. Reactiveness (instead of proactiveness)
6. “A forked tongue” (lying)
7. Lack of sticktuitiveness
8. “Jumping around” (not staying with a dream, an assignment, a project a person, an idea, a vision, etc.
9. Talks too much (does not listen)

III. Biblical example of the joy and pain of transformational leadership - I Thessalonians

2:1-15

Conclusion - Letter from alum

Hello, I doubt that you will remember me, but I just wanted to drop you a quick email while I still have access to email. I graduated a couple of years ago and had several conversations with you about Theater and New York City, where I will finally move to so I can pursue a career in acting and writing. I never told you while I was a student at MVNC, but you were someone who I looked up to and considered to be a good Christian man. You spoke several times in Chapel of your upbringing and the type of Father that you had. It sounded like we had similar childhoods. I too had an abusive Father who took out his daily frustrations of life out on his children. Your speaking about your Father helped me to realize that the cycle does not have to repeat itself like many of the studies show. I believe all people that have childhood's like that have moments of weakness, in which a certain emotion can come back to haunt us, but for the most part, through God and others, we realize that the repletion of the acts can stop. It was my greatest fear that I someday would participate in the same acts of my father. I have married a wonderful woman. She is a great Christian and has helped me realize that I must forgive my Father for his actions in order to move. I have forgiven my Father, I don't like him, but I have forgiven him.

I also wanted to tell you another way that you were "Jesus" to me. While I attended MVNC, I was not your typical Nazarene student. I enjoyed drinking, smoking, and other immoral acts that are against the Christian faith. Most of the people I came across at the college looked down upon me, because they knew that I participated in these acts. I was friends with other people like me, others that smoked and drank with me. During all that time, I could tell you had a genuine love for the students like me, and that was greatly appreciated. I wish I would have told you while I was still attending college, but everyone has those people in their lives that they look back upon and see them as instrumental people in their current walk with God. One of my biggest regrets in college

is that I did not participate in more acts of service in the various activities that the college participates in. I wish I could do it all over again, but I can only start from this point on.

As you may have noticed, I have some time to kill at my job, so I would like to tell you where I am now in my Christian walk. I have always known God has a place in his Kingdom for me and that he had a special job for me. As a young boy, around the age of 4 years old, I was struck with a rare Kidney problem. I had to go to the hospital and faced a scaring surgery. In my hospital room stood my pastor, parents, nurses, and various members of the church. The nurse said it was time for me to go to surgery, and I asked to pray with everyone in the room. After the prayer, I told everyone that I didn't need surgery because Jesus healed me. The people in the room laughed and said how cute it was for me to say that. When they didn't believe me I grew angry and fought with the nurses as they tried to put me under that antiseptic. Well, to keep a long story short, my first words coming out of the sleep were, "I told you." I didn't need any surgery and the doctor told my mother that a higher power than him healed me. Time and time events like that happened to me, but I still ran from God. The reason I wanted to go to Mt. Vernon was because I grew up with R.... and J..... The three of us were best friends. They were Nazarene and I was Baptist. I did not want to go to college after high school, and they went off to the Naz. After the accident and J.... died, I signed to go to the Naz just because I wanted to be there for my best friend R...., for he was going through a rough time. It seems like I should have known the errors of alcohol then, but I still ignored the signs and stories, and became maybe the biggest drinker the Naz has ever seen. I even bartended my way through college and became friends with many people in the community. After graduation I moved to Columbus, where I continued to bartend at some clubs and worked during the day. One night after bartending, I had a freak stroke. I was rushed to the hospital, and it looked like I could die. I could not move my mouth or think properly, but I knew that I treated Jesus improperly. My girlfriend who later became my Wife was constantly working on me to listen to my heart, and this experience gave us both opportunities to grow more together and towards the lord. I laid in the

hospital for 8 days unable to move the left side of my body, and my mind seemed to work in slow motion. There were times I just wanted to die. After being released, I had a lot of therapy to go through. It was during all of this that I realized that I had to get myself straight and listen to what God wanted with my life. And miraculously, I can move both sides of my body, and I am strong and healthy. No stroke related symptoms bother me anymore. My wife, and I got married last October, and I have never been closer to God. Now at the end of this month, she and I will be moving to New York City, where I will pursue acting and writing, and my wife will go to law school. Two places that are in desperate need of Christ. I look forward to the challenge now of fulfilling my duties for Christ, I just wish I had done them sooner. `

I guess I wanted to write this email as an encouragement for you. I know it must be hard at times to see kids struggling with their Christian walk, but the only thing you can do for them is pray and continue to be an example. One of the biggest problems that I faced in college was constantly being judged, and I never felt that directed from you. Thank you Dr. Fairbanks for being an instrumental teacher in my Christian walk, even though you did not know it at the time. God Bless you, the campus, faculty, and all the students this next year,

In Him,

MVNU Graduate

2. There is Joy and Pain in leadership...
3. I'm talking about modeling the transformational life.
4. Modeling is the method of Christian education for transformation.