

***The Everyday, Anytime Guide to Christian Leadership*** by Walt Kallestad (Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress, 1994) (4 Quotes selected by Doug Nichols)

### **1. Leader's Vision**

**Vision** helps leaders see what's coming next. Wayne Gretzky was asked why he was the world's greatest hockey player. He replied that, while most hockey players go where the hockey puck is, he always goes where the puck will be. By seeing tomorrow today, we can anticipate and avoid many future problems and pitfalls. When all our resources go into problem solving, we become worn out, unproductive, and unfulfilled. Leadership that looks ahead can see problems coming and can make the necessary adjustments to avoid many problems. Problem avoidance is much more productive than problem solving; it enables us to accomplish more and become more effective leaders. [Page 28]

### **2. Leaders' Affirmations**

Effective leaders always look for ways to say thank you. A Christian leader looks for at least seven new ways to say thank you to people who have helped him financially. This has enhanced his ministry tremendously over the past 50 years. I have a friend in San Antonio, Texas, who writes notes of affirmation to people all over the world every day. He believes in leading with continuous affirmation. [Page 33]

### **3. Leaders Showing Worth and Value to Others**

Affirmation builds a greater sense of worth and value in one another. My cousin discovered this firsthand. She was born with a deformed lip. Her speech was garbled and her teeth were gnarled. As a little girl, she was ashamed of how she looked and ashamed of who she was. During recess at school she would often stand far away from her classmates, hoping she wouldn't be noticed. When she walked around, she kept her head down in embarrassment. One day her well-loved grade school teacher knelt down beside her desk, lovingly looked into her eyes, and said, "You are very special. I wish you were my little girl." In that moment of affirmation, a little girl who didn't love herself at all was totally transformed. If her teacher thought she was special and wanted her, she decided that she must be of value. [Pages 34-35]

### **4. Transformational Leadership**

Leading by affirmation is transformational leadership. The job gets done, but the greatest reward is that there is wonderful enjoyment and fulfillment in the process. When so much of the world 'works to keep going, the effective leader knows how important it is that people keep going at work. A paycheck doesn't bring the greatest satisfaction; appreciation does. [Page 35]