

Cgroup Leadership Steering the Ship Prayerfully Following the Guide

Leading a Cgroup is much like steering a ship. The captain must use the wind that is blowing and determine the best course to take in order to reach the ship's destination. There are two extremes that must be avoided in steering the Cgroup.

First, there is the error of exercising too much control, rigidly following the guide. We will call this leader, Captain Control Freak of the USS Wind Stall. This leader has an agenda, a course heading and will not deviate from that course a single degree.

The problem is that often the wind is blowing in a direction that will make heading in that direction very slow moving. A good captain will take a course slightly off of the ultimate destination to catch the wind that is blowing. She will then tack or turn the ship back to another heading that takes advantage of the wind and brings the ship back closer to the ultimate destination.

Captain Control Freak, on the other hand, insists on heading straight for the prescribed agenda and ends up stalling the ship by heading straight into the wind. Every time discussion starts to get passionate and exciting, but slightly off course, Captain Control Freak stops the discussion and turns back into the wind.

There is another error, however, that must be avoided and that is the error of no control over the direction at all, not following the guide. We will call this leader, Captain Non-Existent of the USS Rudderless. This leader simply never takes the wheel, leaving the ship to flounder as it is driven along by the wind. The ship ends up farther away from its ultimate destination than it was when it first set sail.

We all err in one of the two ways mentioned above. Some of us are more prone to be Captain Control Freak and others Captain Non-Existent. What we all seek to be is a leader who takes note of the wind and then guides the

ship in a course that makes best use of the wind while moving toward the ultimate destination. We will call this type of leader Captain Guidance of the USS Spirit Led. This leader prayerfully follows the guide. They understand that the guide gives us clear navigation and helps us set the sails for the wind of God's Spirit to blow.

Captain Guidance pays close attention not only to the guide, but also to the wind, the movement of God within the Cgroup. Often the wind is blowing very powerfully in a direction far different from the prescribed guide. Someone in the Cgroup, for instance, may be going through a major crisis and the overall destination for the meeting needs to be changed. A good leader may steer the ship toward a port where the passengers can do some repair work, saving the original destination for another day. This may mean going to sharing challenges and celebrations before diving into the scriptures or sharing about unconnected friends.

Unlike Captain Non-Existent, however, Captain Guidance knows that a strong wind can often be given by God to move the Cgroup toward the very purposes for which the guide is given. Captain Guidance knows that emotional, energetic, engaging or enthusiastic conversation can move a Cgroup forward even if it is not exactly in the order that the guide is structured.

This leader simply tacks or turns the conversation back to another heading that takes advantage of the wind and brings the Cgroup back closer to the ultimate destination. Instead of a captain's wheel, the leader uses questions which redirect the energy of the conversation without causing it to stall.

If someone began enthusiastically sharing about something God had done in their life at the beginning of a meeting, Captain Control Freak would say, "We can talk about that later we need to get back to the scripture". Captain Non-Existent would allow the conversation to trail on into whatever people wanted to talk about. Captain Guidance would say "That sounds so exciting" let's go ahead and share our celebrations now and allow them to carry on with their conversation. They would then encourage others to share their celebrations and challenges. In this way, they would allow the movement of God's Spirit to take the Cgroup. After the sharing of confessions and celebrations they would take everyone into connecting through scripture and the other portions of the guide. If someone came in sharing something very painful, Captain Guidance may allow that entire

time for that person to receive prayer and support from the Cgroup, but they would be conscious at the next meeting of following the guide into the many important aspects of making disciples.

Which are you most prone to be, Captain Control Freak or Captain Non-Existent? How could you be more like Captain Guidance?