

Lead Others Better by Leading Yourself Well

How does developing someone else actually develop your leadership?

It has been said that the people close to us determine our level of success. Moses learned this lesson in the wilderness and so implemented a plan to put competent, godly leaders next to him. David had his mighty men. Paul had Barnabas, John Mark, Timothy, Titus, and Phoebe.

When ministers decide to be leaders, they cross a very important line. They no longer judge themselves solely by what they can do themselves; the truest measure of the impact of a leader is found in what those around them accomplish. In God's economy, our personal development happens most as we are developing those He has called around us.

Lead others better by leading yourself well.

THE QUICK SUMMARY - [The 4 Dimensions of Extraordinary Leadership](#), by Jenni Catron

You have the capacity to become an extraordinary leader—if you are willing to embrace a deeper definition of leadership and take action to apply it.

In *The 4 Dimensions of Extraordinary Leadership*, Jenni Catron, executive church leader and author of *Clout*, reveals the secrets to standout leadership found in the Great Commandment: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.”

Weaving a winsome narrative filled with inspiring real-life stories, hard-won wisdom, and practical applications, Catron unpacks four essential aspects of growing more influential: your heart for relational leadership, your soul for spiritual leadership, your mind for managerial leadership, and your strength for visionary leadership.

Leadership isn't easy, but it *is* possible to move from ordinary to extraordinary. Jenni Catron shows the way.

A SIMPLE SOLUTION

Look at almost any definition of a leader, and it will include something about others: influencing them, directing their work, guiding their development. And while this is true, leaders must remember that the first priority of a leader is to lead yourself.

Leaders like to lead. And when we say we like to lead, we usually mean we like to lead others, right? But if you can't lead yourself well, you will be ill equipped to lead others.

Part of the responsibility of leadership is understanding your influence on others. Leadership is only as strong as the leader. And that responsibility, if you're grasping the weight of it, is the reason why your leadership journey must begin with leading yourself

well.

Self-leadership is a willingness to make yourself uncomfortable in order to lead yourself and others to bigger dreams and greater goals. It requires the humility of introspection. Many leaders skip over self-leadership because the discomfort of facing their own limitations is frightening enough to discourage them before they've even begun.

Jenni Catron, [*The 4 Dimensions of Extraordinary Leadership*](#)

A NEXT STEP

The centerpiece of Jenni Catron's book is based on the fundamental biblical truth found in Mark 12:28-30, commonly known as the Great Commandment: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your strength and with all your mind and with all your strength."

Using this scripture as a foundation, Catron develops a multi-dimensional leadership model that requires leading from our whole selves – heart, soul, mind, and strength.

As noted in the quotations above, Catron feels that first learning to lead yourself is a critical foundation of influence. With this model in mind, set aside time to inventory yourself in each area

You will find the self-assessment described in the book in an online version [here](#), but first, reflect on these questions developed from the book.

Heart – Relational Leadership

- How are you connecting with those you lead?
- Do you know their stories and what inspires them?

Soul – Spiritual Leadership

- What does spiritual formation look like for you?
- When do you most feel like you're experiencing spiritual growth?

Mind – Managerial Leadership

- What systems do you have in place to instill disciplines that transform ideas into accomplishments?
- How do you demonstrate stewardship in making good, consistent decisions about how to best manage your resources?
- What principles do you follow in creating a culture of accountability for yourself?

Strength – Visionary Leadership

- How strong do you feel about the vision you're working toward?
- Is there anything you need to do to help own it more?

Once you spend time taking this inventory, prioritize three actions to take in the next three months, with specific and measurable markers of success.

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*This is part of a weekly series posting content from one of the most innovative content sources in the church world: **SUMS Remix** Book Summaries for church leaders. SUMS Remix takes a practical problem in the church and looks at it with three solutions; and each solution is taken from a different book. As a church leader you get to scan relevant books based on practical tools and solutions to real ministry problems, not just by the cover of the book. Each post will have the edition number which shows the year and what number it is in the overall sequence. (SUMS provides 26 issues per year, delivered every other week to your inbox).*

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