

Book Review
by Sharon G. Johnson

**Empowered Leaders:
The Ten Principles of
Christian Leadership**

Hans Finzel
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Hans Finzel is currently the Executive Director of CBInternational, a church-based global missionary-sending movement. CBInternational employs an annual missionary force of over 750 short- and long-term missionaries serving the Church on five continents, impacting over 60 countries.

In this book the author discusses a number of ideas about effective and ineffective leadership, drawing on the Bible, his own experience, and a wide range of other Christian and secular authors (such as George Barna, Ken Blanchard, Warren Bennis, Kenneth Gangel, and Howard Hendricks).

The “principles” are actually topical areas such as character, vision, developing others, and creativity. Within each of these areas the author provides a variety of perspectives, often employing “lists” that provide useful frameworks for discussion and self-analysis. For example, in

the chapter on “Encouragement” he discusses the following:

Five Ways to Encourage Followers

1. Encourage with attention.
2. Encourage when crisis comes.
3. Encourage when a job is well done.
4. Encourage when they do poorly.
5. Encourage wherever there is an opportunity.

The author offers a variety of summary observations that highlight important ideas about leadership. For example, in the chapter on “Creativity” he makes this observation: “Lesson one of creativity in ministry: Take time to think of more than one solution to your problem. Rarely is the first instinct best.”

Throughout the 181 pages of this relatively short book, the author offers a variety of concrete examples. The ones from his own successes and failures are discussed with candor and demonstrate that the principles articulated in this book come from the heart of an experienced leader. The lessons he offers all of us for being leaders within our own arenas of calling are valuable.

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