

Leading Second Podcast

Episode Guide



Leading Second Podcast - Season 7 Episode 185

Biblical Literacy for Leaders ft. Dr. Manny Arango

Brandon is joined by Dr. Manny Arango to discuss what Biblical Literacy is, how church leaders can and should be growing in it, and how the church benefits from strong Biblical Literacy in today's culture.

WHY ARE HEALTHY SECOND CHAIR LEADERS NECESSARY FOR A HEALTHY CHURCH?

- There are more Second Chair Leaders than any other.
- Jesus never sends anyone out alone.
- We don't believe in doing ministry by yourself.

WHY IS THERE A BIBLICAL LITERACY ISSUE?

- A subtle shift happened in churches post-World War II.
 - Pre-World War II, a pastor's job was to disseminate their denomination's theological stance.
 - Post-World War II, CEOs became the ideal role.
 - Pastors began to become the CEOs of their churches.
 - The role moved away from communal theologian, caring for people, and teaching to preaching and leading the organization.
 - We naturally elevate CEOs because of "the system."
 - We need to shift from operating on default and start operating out of design.

- We're bringing patterns of behavior from the secular world into the church.
 - We talk about leadership in the church but don't bring leadership from the Bible into the discussion.
- Pastors have shifted to being content creators.
 - Creating motivational, inspirational, evangelical messages.
 - All of this is necessary to be relevant to the age that it's in.
- One of the central themes of the epistles and Paul's teachings is guarding the gospel and warning against false doctrine.
 - 1 Timothy 4:16a (NIV) "Watch your life and doctrine closely."
 - "We have churches full of people who are assembled but not aligned." Kevin Gerald
- The reality is we have to know that with any decision there's good and there's bad.
- Foundations classes are needed.
 - What's the model of ministry Jesus grew up under?
 - You had to learn to have the theological knowledge.
 - Formation selects who and what it's looking for.
 - Whatever you're looking for, you will find.
- Biblical literacy issue: what do we value?
 - Whatever we value we're going to find in the next generation.
 - Whatever you value, you will reward.
 - Whatever you reward you'll get more of.
- This generation and the church today need a different type of leadership.
 - Wisdom and truth are at an all-time high of how important they are.
 - It is the church's responsibility to be relevant. Not trendy, but relevant.
 - Gen Z is so informed, but they don't have wisdom.
 - They need handles on how to operate their lives with wisdom and truth.

HOW WOULD YOU RESPOND TO THE SAYING "CHURCHES SHOULD BE KNOWN BY WHAT THEY'RE FOR, NOT WHAT THEY'RE AGAINST?"

- It's a trendy thing to say.
- It's like we're not comfortable being known for what we're against.
- Jesus was very well known for what He was against.
- The idea that Jesus is just known for what He's for - you just took a few passages you like and didn't take into account anything said before or after it.
- John 8:3-11 (NIV) "The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, 'Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?' They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, 'Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.' Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. Jesus straightened up and asked her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she said. 'Then neither do I condemn you,' Jesus declared. 'Go now and leave your life of sin.'
 - Don't sin anymore.
 - Jesus provides grace AND truth.
 - He defends her publicly and then corrects her privately.
 - That's good leadership and pastoring.
- People have snapshots of Jesus in the gospel.
 - If Jesus was only known for what He was for, He wouldn't have been crucified.
- Every time you're for something, you're against something else.
 - Sometimes we just parrot the things we hear.
- Some people don't know what they're for but they do know what they're against.
- We have to rescue the word "gospel."
 - The word "gospel" is the announcement of a king.
 - The word gospel in Greek isn't a Christian word.
 - It's a secular word that Christians baptized into Christianity.
 - The gospel writers took secular verbiage for kings and gods and explained how Jesus is the true prince of peace and what they had was the true gospel.
 - They were persecuted for the gospel, for proclaiming Jesus is King.
 - The early Christians were known for what they were against.
 - They were offensive to secularism.

- There is no way to be for God and not against whatever the enemy's agenda is or what is natural in culture.
 - It's a both/and.
 - And we must live in the tension.
 - It's a tension to be managed not a problem to be solved.
- Jesus cannot just be your Savior, He has to be Lord in your life.
 - If He isn't King then He can't be the Savior.
 - The cross is part of His Kingdom.
- The gospel is against our idolatry.
 - But that doesn't mean God is against us.
 - He is for us.

WHAT'S A RHYTHM OR APPROACH SOMEONE CAN TAKE TO DEEPER THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF THE BIBLE?

- Read the Bible.
 - We don't read the Bible to understand it, we understand it because we read it.
 - Every time you read it and you don't understand, your spirit is still getting fed.
 - A moment of revelation is when your mind has caught up to what your spirit has already known.
 - That's never going to happen if you don't read the Word.
- We feed ourselves the Word even when it doesn't feel like we need it so that when we need it we have it.

Dig Deeper

1. What were your thoughts on Manny's explanation of the shift in how we lead in today's culture? Are there any parts of your ministry you could begin looking at adjusting to become relevant to the age we are living in without feeling the need to be trendy?

2. What were your thoughts on the saying: churches should be known for what they are for, not what they are against? How did this change after hearing Brandon and Manny's discussion?

3. What rhythm can you begin to adapt to further your understanding of the Bible?

Additional Resources

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Resources From The Podcast:

[The Storm Before the Calm: America's Discord, the Coming Crisis of the 2020s, and the Triumph Beyond](#)

Dr. Manny Arango:

To learn more about Dr. Manny and his ministry, visit www.mannyarango.com

Leading Second Camp:

Leading Second Camp is a 2-day conference for church leaders and team members who lead from the middle. In 2025, the Leading Second Camp journey continues in Dallas, TX (February 26th-27th). To learn more about Leading Second Camp, watch past years messages, and gain early access to registrations, visit us at <https://leadingsecondcamp.com>.