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A Delphi Study of the Biblical/Doctrinal Knowledge that Ministers of Christian Churches/Churches of Christ Consider Essential for Spiritual Development [Dissertation Notice]

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DISSERTATION NOTICES

Crowther, S. S. (2012). *An examination of leadership principles in 1 Peter in comparison to authentic and kenotic models of leadership.* Ph.D., Regent University.

This study examined three constructs for leadership—authentic leadership, kenotic leadership, and principles of leadership—from the Christian Scriptures in the pericope of 1 Peter. The study of authentic leadership as a contemporary theory of leadership was drawn from the leadership literature. However, the study of kenotic leadership and principles from 1 Peter was drawn from an exegetical examination of particular sections of Christian Scripture, as well as from the leadership literature. In this research, 10 principles of leadership were found in the text of 1 Peter and then compared to kenotic and authentic leadership. In this comparison, some profound similarities with authentic leadership were discovered, but there was enough dissimilarity to declare them different conceptual frameworks for leadership. In the analysis of kenotic leadership, there was one difference with principles of leadership as found in 1 Peter, but the evidence was that these two conceptual frameworks for leadership were profoundly similar and connected with each other. They were both drawn from the Christian Scriptures, sharing many attributes of leadership, including a call for a radical departure in the use of power, as well as issues of ontological change in the leader.

Derico, J. D. (2012). *A Delphi study of the biblical/doctrinal knowledge that ministers of Christian Churches/Churches of Christ consider essential for spiritual development.* Ph.D., Andrews University.

Though the primary role of the minister is to spiritually lead others and facilitate their spiritual growth, recent trends working against the pastoral role are falling biblical literacy among American Christians and a shrinking ability of church leaders' preparation to convey biblical knowledge that can systematically and effectively guide others in their spiritual growth. A Delphi study was employed to identify the biblical/doctrinal knowledge items considered most essential for facilitating spiritual growth in church members. A selection of 250 Christian Church/Church of Christ ministers were invited to participate in the study. A custom web-based instrument was used to allow participants to select biblical and doctrinal ideas they thought were most essential for spiritual growth in church members. Three Delphi rounds (with 43 ministers) were used to finalize a list of 26 most-selected biblical and doctrinal teachings (out of an initial 600-item list) perceived to be most essential for facilitating spiritual growth in church members. Literature and comments from ministers were used to explore possible reasons these biblical/doctrinal teachings emerged as the most essential for spiritual growth. Suggested rationale for how each respective item contributes to the pursuit of spiritual growth was provided. Several recommendations were offered for pastors, congregations, ministry and theological training institutions, and researchers.