

Leading and Forgivingⁱ

Dr Volker Kessler, Department of Philosophy, Practical and Systematic Theology, University of South Africa, Pretoria & Akademie für Christliche Führungskräfte, Germany.

Abstract

This article is about leading and forgiving in the context of work relationships. It is argued that forgiveness is an essential part of Christian leadership. Firstly, Christian leaders must know that they can receive forgiveness for the mistakes they will make in their leadership position. Secondly, Christian leaders should grant forgiveness to their staff. The benefit of a second chance is discussed, followed by the very practical question: How often should a Christian leader be willing to forgive? It is argued that Matthew 18:21,22 does not apply in this context. The Rule of Benedict offers some interesting insights to this question. Finally, some examples from the German business world are given.

ⁱThis article is a revised extract from my German book *Vier Führungsprinzipien der Bibel* (Kessler 2012).