

EXTRAORDINARY LEADERSHIP: ONE-ON-ONE WITH A.R. BERNARD

A.R. Bernard

Founder, President & Senior Pastor, Christian Cultural Center; Author

After enjoying a successful career in finance, positioning him in a place of influence among top leaders in business, entertainment and politics, A.R. Bernard was called into ministry and now leads the Christian Cultural Center with more than 40,000 members. He is a sought-after thought leader having been featured on *Fox News*, *CNN*, *NBC's Today*, among others including his own show on *Daystar TV*. Some of his recent ministry work includes a major 10-acre development project in Brooklyn to serve the underserved.

A.R. Bernard is known for merging Christian principles with effective policy in order to make communities better. Paula Faris hosts an interview with A.R. Bernard, highlighting how leaders can be bridge builders in society.

Reflect

After listening to Pastor Bernard, what resonated with you? What idea spoke to you or sparked something in you? Spend some time reflecting below:

Cultivate an Attitude of a Bridge Builder

A.R. Bernard encourages leaders to find common ground to serve as a bridge for advancement. He says it all begins with an attitude of understanding, empathy, and humility. To more fully cultivate this attitude, first think of a leader whom you have seen display this kind of attitude. What was it like? How did he or she respond to difficult situations? What behaviors indicated to you that this leader had this kind of attitude?

Now take some time to reflect on specific ways you can increasingly cultivate this attitude. Think about a tension (personal or work), and ask yourself the following:

- In what ways have I *tried to understand* this person's perspective?
- In what ways, have I been able to *build empathy* in this situation?
- In what ways, was I able to *practice humility*?
- Now, consider: In what ways can I cultivate a greater attitude of *understanding, empathy, and humility*? Note those below:

Step Into Tension

Pastor Bernard described a leader as someone who can step into the tension that exists to find common good. He described the tension that exists between separation and assimilation for Christians in culture. Reflect on the following:

- What tension are you experiencing or seeing that you might be able to step into?
- What might be holding you back stepping in?
- What might be a way for you to increase your ability to step in?

Building or Rebuilding Trust

Pastor Bernard was asked about how to rebuild trust where trust has been violated, resulting in a culture of mistrust and distrust. Within your team or organization, where has there been a culture of mistrust? As a team, describe that below:

It was suggested that the best starting place would be giving hope towards some future goal and objective that you can all work towards. As a team, describe what this objective could be in your situation:

Next, Pastor Bernard talked about the idea that agreement is a place of power. Seek to find a place or a subject or an issue on which you can agree. Where are the potential areas of agreement in your context of mistrust?

Lastly, he said building or rebuilding trust about keeping your word and integrity. As a team, have there been areas where integrity or keeping your word have not happened and could be acknowledged? In what ways can you demonstrate your ability to keep your word?

Manage Continuity & Change

Pastor Bernard shared the insight that if you change what you should continue, you lose your identity. If you continue what you should change, you become irrelevant.

- What must you *change* for the betterment of your team or organizational success?

- What must you *continue* based on your team's values or organizational mission, even as culture and work life shifts?

Act:

What is one relationship in your life in which a bridge needs to be built? What ONE step can you take this week to initiate that as a bridge builder?