

Effective Board Leadership

A P R E G N A N C Y R E S O U R C E M A N U A L



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SECTION 1

Spiritual Leadership

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Board Members and Spiritual Oversight

Introduction

It is amazing what God does through ordinary board members. Seven or eight individuals, all with their own personal strengths and weaknesses, join together in a common task and miracles are accomplished. Unborn children are saved. Mothers embrace the salvation of Jesus Christ. Lives are changed.

This is a high and holy calling. Consider carefully that last word, “calling”. God has equipped you, and He has created a place for you to serve. You may never, this side of heaven, realize the incredible ways God is using you.

A primary function of a pregnancy center board is spiritual oversight. The board cannot and should not try to take the place of a church for staff and volunteers, but many boards are finding that they can have tremendous impact on the spiritual climate of the center and the spiritual health of the center staff and volunteer personnel. These board members tell us that even a center administered with clockwork efficiency, funded above and beyond its needs, and reaching more clients every day is not an effective center if the spiritual foundations are not strong.

This section will review four areas of spiritual oversight:

- 1) Manifesting the spiritual qualifications for leadership
- 2) Implementing biblical concepts of leadership and management
- 3) Adhering to standards and the statement of faith
- 4) Practicing spiritual oversight

Manifesting the Spiritual Qualifications for Leadership

A Dynamic Spiritual Life

Spiritual maturity is not recognized through the manifestation of spiritual gifts, as necessary as they may be, but through the fruit of the spirit. Character is Scripture’s primary criterion of spiritual maturity. Effective board members will recommit themselves to a dynamic and growing spiritual life. Eugene Peterson writes:

“There is a great market for religious experience in our world; there is little enthusiasm for the patient acquisition of virtue, little inclination to sign up for a long apprenticeship in what earlier Christians would call holiness.”



A primary function of a pregnancy center board is spiritual oversight.

In 2 Peter 1:5-11, we are urged to “make every effort to add” exemplary qualities of character: first faith, then goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness and finally, love. Now, listen to Peter’s follow-up - “for if you possess these qualities in increasing measure they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Notice that Peter says “in increasing measure”. Spiritual growth is never completed this side of heaven. No matter how long we have been a Christian, we should be continually growing in “increasing measure”. Board members might have rooted out the “scandalous” sins in their lives, but it is often the more subtle sins (control, anger, manipulation, and pride) that can wreak havoc in a center’s ministry. Our lack of growth affects everyone around us; there is not a single sin that does not color our environment and that will not negatively affect how we carry out our ministry as board members.

Spiritual growth does not happen by accident. It is not like growing to be six feet tall - where you either make it or you do not. On the contrary, spiritual growth is the result of patient cooperation with God’s Holy Spirit and carefully applying the Word of God to our lives as we follow Christ in humble submission.

Humility

Lack of self-control is one of the fundamental problems in Christian leadership. Failure to exercise self-control properly results in many wounded lives and in great confusion. Humility is thus an essential virtue for effective board members.

There is no true Christian spirituality without humility.

All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time.

1 Peter 5:5b-6

Scripture is thus explicit that God opposes the proud. If we abuse our power to govern and adopt a haughty spirit, God Himself will oppose us.

Remember, this was as true for a mature Moses, who was denied entrance into the promised land because of pride, as it was for a bungling new believer such as Peter. No matter how far or long we have travelled with God, humility is essential for us to maintain a right spirit.

“”

*A proud monk
needs no demon.
He has turned into
one, an enemy to
himself.*

*John Climacus,
fifth century writer*

How do we adopt a humble attitude? John Owen, the great reformer, writes:

“Two things are needed to humble us. First, let us consider God in His greatness, glory, holiness, power, majesty, and authority. Then, let us consider ourselves in our mean, abject, and sinful condition.”

In other words, we need an accurate view of ourselves (including our sinful state and tendency to sin) and an accurate view of God in His perfect glory.

Regular worship is one of the most effective ways to build a life of humility. It is only when we spend time in God’s presence that we are able to see our own failings, as well as His loveliness. Teresa of Avila, a medieval writer on prayer, says:

“We shall never completely know ourselves if we don’t strive to know God. By gazing at His grandeur, we get in touch with our own lowliness; by looking at His purity, we shall see our own filth; by pondering His humility, we shall see how far we are from being humble....something white seems much whiter when next to something black, and vice versa with the black next to the white.”

Gentleness

Humility concerns how we view God and ourselves. Gentleness is the application of humility to our actions and the actions of those around us.

Gentleness is contagious. If we believe God is a God of gentleness, we will tend to treat ourselves with gentleness and we will tend to treat others gently as well. Conversely, if we see God as a difficult taskmaster, we will tend to treat ourselves and others harshly as well.

Scripture paints a picture of the gentle God.

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

Matthew 11:28-30

See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey.

Matthew 21:5

I appeal to you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ.

2 Corinthians 10:1



Scripture reveals
a gentle God.



A lack of gentleness is the cause of many church fights and pregnancy center disagreements.

We see that the prophets predicted Christ's gentleness, Christ affirmed His own gentleness, and the disciples remembered Christ's gentleness. It is not surprising, then, that the apostles sought this gentleness in their own lives and the lives of their followers.

Paul mentions in 1 Thessalonians 2:7 that, "as apostles we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her children." In Philippians 4:5 he urges, "Let your gentleness be evident to all." Paul urges Timothy, the young leader, to "pursue gentleness" in 1 Timothy 6:11.

This gentleness is not a bonus we give to the deserving, but a debt we owe to all. Peter tells us that we are to answer non-believers "with gentleness and respect", and Paul urges that, "If someone is caught in a sin, those who are spiritual should restore him gently." *Galatians 6:1*

Be forewarned - a lack of gentleness is the cause of many church fights and pregnancy center disagreements.

Faith, Hope, and Vision

These are difficult times to lead any ministry dedicated to addressing the contentious issue of abortion. Every center will experience the highs of women making the right choices and the lows of slanderous attacks, questioned motives, and occasional fierce opposition.

There is little room for a pessimist on the board of a pregnancy center. On one occasion, the Christian writer, Richard John Neuhaus, was being driven to the airport, and his host was decrying the disintegration of the American social fabric. After patiently listening to despairing remark after despairing remark, Neuhaus finally replied, "The times may be bad, but they are the only times we are given. Remember, hope is still a Christian virtue, and despair a mortal sin."

The story of Moses can provide great encouragement for board members because he exemplified Christian faith, hope, and vision. Faced with a seemingly impossible task, freeing the children of Israel from enslavement to Egypt, Moses' life reveals tremendous perseverance, unwavering faith, and a keen vision.

Keep in mind that God never told Moses there would be ten plagues. He simply asked Moses to be faithful through the next step. Ten times God told Moses to approach Pharaoh, and each time Moses obeyed. Many of us, I suspect, would say, after the fourth or fifth plague, "Look, God, I've done as I was told, and nothing has happened. Why should I keep going back?" But Moses persevered and ultimately the impossible was done.

There will be times when your center faces what looks like insurmountable obstacles. Some board members will see nothing but the problems, and the negatives are capable of destroying the spiritual foundations of a working board. A spiritually healthy board member will be the type who believes God will show the way if He is sought, who has a generally optimistic outlook, and who looks for solutions rather than being overwhelmed by the problems.

Implementing Biblical Concepts of Leadership and Management

Servant Leadership

The clear biblical pattern of leadership is “servant leadership”, which presents us with a great invitation - to love others as Christ first loved us. After washing His disciples’ feet, Jesus said:

Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

John 13:14-15

On another occasion, Jesus said:

You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave, just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many.

Matthew 20:25-28

Servant leadership is the opposite of an abusive use of manipulation or control. This frees the board from setting itself up as an adversary to the center staff and/or volunteers and releases it to become the servant to the director and his/her staff.

Moral Integrity

Whatever a board member does, even outside the center, can reflect on the center itself. If a board member is seen as a man or woman of exemplary character, pastors and potential board members will be drawn to the work of the center. If a board member is engaging in activities or conduct that is unethical, confidence in the center will decline. In a very real sense, board members personify the center to the community.

It can be somewhat sobering to learn that there really is no down-time as a board member. Every action you take can have repercussions on the



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One of the primary elements of providing spiritual oversight is maintaining spiritual health in one's own life.

reputation of the pregnancy center ministry. This need not be an overly heavy burden, however. No one is perfect, but the accountability to which being a board member calls us encourages us to “live in the light” without any secrets. This is freeing as much as convicting, because it gives us yet one more reason to take seriously any issue of moral integrity.

It is true - one of the primary elements of providing spiritual oversight is maintaining spiritual health in one's own life. We need to take time to develop a deepening faith. In a very real sense, this “self-focus” is a vital part of our ministry.

Fair and Decisive Leadership

There are two extremes that bring spiritual disaster as board members govern the affairs of a pregnancy center:

- 1) A tyrannical, controlling leadership that demeans staff and fights for control;
- 2) A wishy-washy, indecisive form of leadership that results in miscommunication, hurt feelings, and lack of focus.

On the positive end - strong, godly, and decisive leadership recognizes gifts in others, frees others to achieve more than they would have been able to otherwise, and creates a cohesive community that is mutually supporting. There are few experiences more gratifying than creating this type of climate.

Board members need the spiritual maturity to make tough decisions, but they also need the ability to communicate those decisions in such a way that people do not feel criticized, discouraged, or abused. Maliciousness on the one hand or people-pleasing on the other inevitably cause great dissension.

Adhering to Standards and the Statement of Faith

One of the great blessings of being a board member is working in unity toward a common end. The pregnancy center ministry can draw people from all Christian traditions, and this can be a very rewarding experience. To preserve this unity, it is essential that all board members serve with basic agreement on fundamental issues. The Care Net Standards of Affiliation, Statement of Principles, and Statement of Faith serve as the unifying voice of the center.

Board members agree that if, at a later date, they no longer believe in any item in any statement, they will inform the rest of the board. This common agreement makes divisive discussions and debates unnecessary



and preserves the spirit of unity which is so essential for the long-term and successful operation of a pregnancy center.

Care Net is pleased to work as an interdenominational ministry. However, since evangelism is a significant part of our work, it is imperative that board members, staff, and volunteers agree on the basics of the Gospel. Every board member should be able to agree with the Statement of Faith. In addition, each board member should be a member or regular attender of a church that teaches historic, orthodox Christianity.

Any issues not directly addressed by the Statement of Faith should not usually be discussed by the board. There are many peripheral issues of doctrine about which Christians disagree. Discussions on these issues can bring division and a critical spirit that will undermine the work of the board at a later date.

From time to time, Care Net will receive inquiries about making small exceptions to the Statement of Faith or allowing some pregnancy center board members to sign the statement "with exceptions". The local board needs to take a long-term view of spiritual oversight. One small exception today may have long-term ramifications. Board members have a responsibility to preserve and maintain the long-term spiritual integrity of their local ministry.

Practicing Spiritual Oversight

Prayer

One of the most important contributions board members make to the pregnancy center ministry is prayer. One center's board reserves the first half-hour of every board meeting for prayer. During their biannual board and staff retreats, they have a more extended time of prayer and worship, as well as a spiritual challenge from Scripture. Another pregnancy center begins each board meeting with a short devotion and ends the meeting with prayer. To encourage the participation of everyone, prayer progresses around the circle.

The board can also encourage prayer to take place among staff members. To keep prayer focused, one center restricts prayer needs to immediate families of staff members and volunteers. Once a week, every prayer request is collected, recorded, and mailed to each member of the board. This gives board members the opportunity to pray specifically for the needs of those who work in the center, as well as a chance to follow up with an encouraging note or phone call.



Both Harvard and Yale were founded as specifically Christian schools but are now bastions of liberalism.

Another center has organized a specific prayer committee made up of one board member and a few volunteers. The only commitment required by those who sit on this committee is regular attendance at a weekly prayer meeting that may last an hour. Prayer requests are kept strictly confidential.

Finally, consider having board members take turns attending staff meetings with the express purpose of praying for the individuals working in the center.

Recruitment

Part of the spiritual oversight function of the board is to recruit only those individuals who are spiritually mature people. A candidate may appear inviting because of his/her reputation or financial resources, but may be spiritually immature. Resist the temptation to make an exception. Remember, that board member will also be involved in recruiting and voting on future members. Votes can “snowball” before you know what has happened.

One center has solved this dilemma by asking capable professionals who lack the spiritual maturity to be board members to consider serving as committee members. This way, the board can benefit from their expertise and support without compromising its leadership. It also provides an opportunity for the committee member to mature spiritually, with a view toward one day serving on the board.

There are two ways you can discern a prospective board member’s spiritual maturity:

- 1) Talking with his/her pastor;
- 2) Questioning the person who nominated the individual.

One experienced board member describes it this way:

“We want to bring on board members that are walking close enough with the Lord to hear Him. If a prospective board member doesn’t understand what this means, that tells us what we need to know.”

Supporting the Director

One pregnancy center has created a “Care Committee” to provide spiritual oversight for the executive director. The committee (which should include at least one woman if the director is a woman) may consist of just two individuals and should meet with the director at least once a month. The discussion in this meeting will concern spiritual life issues as well as general planning.



The attitude of the committee should be one of encouragement and support, not inquisition!

Remember, such a committee may not be able to provide direct spiritual oversight, but it can ask:

How are things going with your church?

Are you finding time to participate in a small group?

Have things gotten so busy that devotional time is being squeezed out?

What is the spiritual climate of the center, and how can we help?

The attitude of the committee should be one of encouragement and support, not inquisition! Let this be a meeting that the director looks forward to, not one he or she dreads.

In addition to a committee of care, provide funds in the center budget (or solicit donations from board members) to make regular gifts of books, tapes, and conference fees that will spiritually benefit the executive director and/or staff members. Also, consider giving the executive director at least one week of a study or retreat sabbatical per year.

Denominational Diversity

An effective center will have volunteers that represent a wide range of denominational experience. Clients who come to the center will come from various spiritual and denominational backgrounds. A spiritually dynamic board will welcome and work for denominational diversity. This means a willingness to listen to divergent points of view and an open spirit to incorporate different perspectives.

This is the only way the board can effectively oversee a ministry that has clients and staff members with various points of view. Aggressively championing a denomination's virtues may be appropriate in an adult Sunday school class, but it is not appropriate during a board meeting. Experienced board members should be willing to welcome new board members from different traditions.

Summary: The Essence of Spiritual Oversight

The pregnancy center exists to glorify Jesus by making His promises and purposes known to women and men facing crisis pregnancies. This means that board members should strive to develop the spiritual maturity they hope to see in the center director, in the remaining staff, and ultimately in the clients who come to the center. Scripture urges us to model first and teach second. "Lead by example" should be the theme for every board member. Developing a deepening spiritual life is thus an essential component of being an effective board member.

True Leadership Requires a Servant's Heart

by Daniel J. Lynch, Esq.

There are many important responsibilities of board members, but it has been my experience that the most significant and fundamental leadership role the board must satisfy is providing spiritual and emotional support for the staff and volunteers. If the board is deficient in this area, all of the board's other efforts will bear little or no fruit.

Serving as a member of the board of directors for a ministry is different from serving on the board of a secular organization in one significant respect. The board of a crisis pregnancy center (CPC) is the spiritual head of the ministry. This headship requires that each board member individually, and the board collectively, reflect Christ's love, compassion, humility, forgiveness and servant nature.

The board's response to this challenge sets the tone for the entire center. A spiritually mature board will encourage the staff and inspire confidence and unity among them. Conversely, a board that is prideful, unreasonably demanding or that has a condemning spirit will demoralize the staff and will cause disharmony throughout the ministry. In this latter situation, staff won't be able to minister to clients because they will be in need of ministry themselves.

There are many different components to the board's spiritual headship role. It is on my heart, however, to focus only on the importance of the service aspect of spiritual leadership.

Of course, the life of Jesus was the ultimate example of servant leadership. On numerous occasions Christ, the creator of the cosmos who by his word spoke our universe into existence, humbled himself to serve others despite his deity. Possibly the most poignant example of his servitude, aside from his death at the cross, is seen in John 13 in which Christ wrapped a towel around his waist and washed the disciples' feet at the Last Supper. Washing guests' feet was a job performed by household slaves. Yes - Jesus humbled himself in order to demonstrate that a real leader must have a servant's heart. This act of servanthood was a real life example of the words Christ had earlier spoken to his disciples: "[W]hoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be a slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come here to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:43-45

Although the concept of servant leadership is both biblical and simple, it is often unfamiliar to us. That is because the world's system of leadership is very different from leadership in God's kingdom. Many of us have been exposed only to a secular version of leadership - leaders dictate directives to underlings and demand results by the use of intimidation, fear or manipulative pressure. As a result, we may not associate leadership or authority with concepts like humility and service.

Crisis pregnancy centers in particular suffer when leadership takes on these qualities. On the other hand, they thrive when board members lead following the humble example of Christ. Most CPCs are run by one or two underpaid and overworked staff and by volunteers. They make great personal sacrifices in order to fight at the front line of the greatest spiritual battle of our time. The intensity of that battle leaves many directors and staff in need of ministry themselves at day's end. They need board members who are servant leaders.

With our limited budgets, there is little of monetary value that we can give to reward or encourage our staff and volunteers. It takes no monetary resources, however, to make them feel supported and appreciated. The board must refresh and encourage the staff and volunteers. This is where service leadership comes in. The following are just a few ways that a board member can lead by serving.

Pray

S.D. Gordon said: "You can do more than pray after you have prayed, but you cannot do more than pray

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until you have prayed...Prayer is striking the winning blow...service is gathering up the results." The board should be committed to praying for the ministry and its laborers. This not only includes praying for the center during your private prayer time but the board should consider instituting a corporate prayer time (possibly open to all supporters). One board member could be available to pray with the director each day and the board could have its own prayer chain to participate in the spiritual battles confronting the center and its clients. A praying board is not only scriptural and impacts things eternal, but it also serves as an example and encouragement to the staff. Conversely, a board uncommitted to prayer leaves the ministry exposed and loses credibility with its staff.

Encourage

A board that does not encourage staff may hinder the ministry regardless of their other efforts for the cause.

Encouragement can come in many forms. The board should verbalize their appreciation for staff and compliment them for a job well done. Board members may drop by the center during working hours (although non-client working hours may be best) and bring coffee and donuts to staff. Inviting staff to a pot luck or other social event also expresses your appreciation for their efforts.

At board meetings, place emphasis on the director's report and consider increasing the time during the meeting for the report. This lets the director know you recognize her importance to the ministry and that you value her needs and input. Finally, and most basically, attend meetings and fundraisers. A board's apparent apathy can demoralize the hard working, committed and battle weary staff, whereas a show of support uplifts and energizes the staff.

Recognize

While we all labor to please God and not man, we are human and still enjoy recognition for our hard work. Consider featuring a different staff member in each newsletter. Host an occasional surprise party or give an occasional gift as a way of recognizing the efforts of your staff. At center events, publicly recognize all staff members in attendance.

Refresh

The board should serve as a source of refreshment to staff. Regularly ask your director how she is doing, identify her needs and offer to provide assistance. Assure that staff are taking their vacations and are well rested. Refrain from burdening your already overburdened staff with board problems - they have enough spiritual battles of their own to fight. Most importantly, if you act improperly or place unreasonable demands on staff, repent immediately. Your prompt repentance will not only restore unity but will earn the respect of staff.

In conclusion, it is important to recognize that service leadership neither requires the board to relinquish its biblical role of head of the ministry nor abdicate its leadership role to staff. It does require, however, that the board understand how it is to fulfill that leadership role and how leadership in a ministry differs from "leadership" in the secular world. It requires the simple understanding that, in God's kingdom, a real leader must have a servant's heart.

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Personal Holiness

by Julie Parton

There is a praise chorus that one often hears these days that goes,

"Holiness, holiness is what I long for.

Holiness is what I need . . ."

Can that be said of you? Does it matter if that can be said of you?

I would submit that it does matter, matters a lot. But, you say, I am "only" a board member for this pregnancy center. I attend a meeting once a month, help make financial decisions, show up at the annual banquet (and maybe the Walk for Life), and that's about it. What does holiness have to do with those things? Everything.

Serving on that Board means that God has put you in a key position of leadership, helping to develop policies and determine the direction for one of His ministries. You are part of the decision-making group who will largely determine whether that ministry, in that community, will be following God's leading, or striking out on its own. How can you faithfully discharge that responsibility if you are not being increasingly set apart for Him in your own personal life? - if yours is not a growing, dynamic walk with Him, characterized by being a reflection of His heart?

Sanctification is another term that is often used for growing in holiness, increasing Christ-likeness in our lives. And it is NOT optional for Christians, but rather a command of Scripture: "Be holy yourselves also in all your behavior, because it is written 'You shall be holy, for I am holy.'" (*1 Peter 1:15-16*). That's quite a tall order!

But the good news is that God doesn't just leave us on our own to accomplish it. Through His Holy Spirit resident within all believers, He works in our lives to increasingly conform us to the likeness of His Son. Philippians 1:6 tells us that "He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion" at His return.

That doesn't mean, however, that we just sit back, relax, and have no active involvement in the process! Think of all those New Testament verses that tell us to grow, change, put off the deeds of the old man and put on the new, etc. Let's look at two passages in particular which instruct us on the "how-to":

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - His good, pleasing, and perfect will.

Romans 12:2

And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3:18

As indicated by the underlining, the common word in these two verses is "transformed." In his book *The Pursuit of Holiness*, Jerry Bridges points out that in both passages that verb is some form of present tense, indicating the action is continuous - "continue to let yourselves be transformed."

However, in both passages that verb is also passive voice, indicating it is a work done *in* us, rather than by us. God's Spirit is the agent who changes us more and more into conformity with Jesus, transforming our inner being, motives as well as motivations.

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Lastly, Bridges points out that the common verb is in the imperative mood, a command to DO something. Believers are not to view themselves as a chunk of marble in the hands of a sculptor, because we've been given a mind and a heart with which to respond to and cooperate with the Spirit. And that leads us to Philippians 2:12-13 about working out our own salvation with fear and trembling. We can do this because of confidence (last part of the verse) that His Spirit is at work within us simultaneously helping us to understand His will, desire to do it, and choose to do it.

We must definitely be involved in the process, but any steps toward transformation must be carried out in full dependence on His Spirit's empowering. We work as He enables us to work.

How do we know if we are making progress? Perhaps its most telling trademark is that true holiness always produces increased humility in our lives. Someone has said that humility is like a brilliant bloom, which gives to the world the fragrance of Christ, showing that a life is truly rooted in God's holiness.

Conversely, the chief mark of counterfeit holiness is its *lack* of humility. (Is that maybe why people often have a negative response at even the mention of the concept of personal holiness?) Everyone who seeks after holiness needs to be on guard, for it is all too easy to slip into our own self-effort that is not empowered by His Spirit. Perhaps the telling question we need to ask ourselves in order to determine which is operative in our lives at a given time would be, "Who gets the credit, the glory?" Am I anxious that everyone look at me and exclaim how holy I am? Or is my desire that people looking at me would remark on Jesus shining through my life?

So here's a little assignment for you, some homework to get you started thinking and moving toward increased conformity to the image of Jesus. Take some time to answer these questions.

- 1) Determine what the following verses have to say about the importance of holiness in our thoughts:
1 Samuel 16:7, Psalm 139:1-4, and 2 Corinthians 7:1.
- 2) Compare your own thought life with the standard set for us in Philippians 4:8. What types of thoughts do you need to avoid? What types of thoughts do you want to cultivate?
- 3) How we think is affected by what we see and hear. From the following verses, explain the Bible's standards in these two areas: Matthew 5:27-28, Ephesians 5:3-4, 1 Timothy 2:9-10.
- 4) Carefully read Proverbs 2:1-12. If we desire to guard our minds from evil, what does it say we must do? Pinpoint practical ways that might "play out" for you.

So we come back to where we began: you can't lead someone where you haven't been yourself. Being on the board of a pregnancy help center in and of itself puts you in a position of leadership, whether you think of yourself that way or not. Thus you are obliged to give serious consideration to evaluating where you are with this whole matter of personal holiness.

It's often been said that we may be the only Jesus some people ever see. From having been a pregnancy center director myself for a number of years, I certainly know that's true of many of the clients who come through our doors. Are you as a board member leading the way toward an ever-increasing trust in and walk with the Lord? If you aren't, how can you expect your director, staff, or volunteers to point clients in that direction? We shortchange our clients if we only give them behavioral answers - the world can do that. What we have to offer them that's unique and will last their whole lives is a meaningful walk with the Lord!! You can't give them what you don't have. Do you need to stock up?