

LEAD FOLLOW OR GET OUT OF THE WAY

By: Regina Nunnally

As a child, that statement hung on the door of my father's office as pastor of our church. I would stare at that sign many times not really understanding its meaning. It sounded mean to me then. Now that I am older and have experienced life, the statement resonates.

Some can lead and some can follow but if you can't do either, get out of the way! It's like driving, in a hurry yet the person in front of you is driving slower than you want. Ah yes, irritating to the max! They are holding up progress, taking up space. Creating gridlock, slowing down the process...it's very frustrating.

As a leader, you have to learn to manage yourself and others. You must strike a balance between benevolence and order. As a follower, you must be humble and supportive. Both need to work together to make the best of a situation. It's so beautiful when everyone knows their place, stays in their lane and pulls their own load. However, when you have to be told what to do or someone else has to take on your obligation, it's time to re-evaluate.

I have never desired a leadership position simply because you are always unappreciated or undervalued. As the late Rodney Dangerfield said, "I get no respect." As a follower, I treat those in position the way I want to be treated. I assure them I will do my part which makes the leader's job much easier.

To be a great leader you must have been a great follower. Don't think that just because you are in the follower's position that you are insignificant. Self-examination is very important. Be aware of how you affect your surroundings. Lead or Follow. If you can't do either, be kind and honest and get out of the way.

