**Leading with Lightheartedness**

By Bishop Walmor Oliveira de Azevedo\*

Leading with lightness of heart/lightheartedness is a science that one learns, an art to be practiced and an essential wisdom for all in the exercise of leadership.

It is understood that lightheartedness in leadership, does not include negotiating untouchable values and principles. In fact, lightheartedness presupposes ethical mastery of values and principles that build and edify a posture consistent with ministry and the roles to be performed.



Lightheartedness is an indispensable condition and unparalleled practice that reaches the very height of the stature of a community that lives in solidarity. One that demands true and the well-lived dignity of the sons and daughters of God. This consideration, which applies to all individuals, is even more important for those who exercise leadership. If the leader, of any group, does not learn to lead with lightheartedness, he or she will trample upon, with words and gestures, the processes under their management and will never pave the way for creative intuitions while searching for urgent solutions. Without lightheartedness, contemporary society will not come out easily from its subjugation to radicalism, polarization, and religious and political fundamentalism. Lightheartedness has an important civilizing property for a violent and unhealthy society.

Lightheartedness, enfolded with civility, a sense of solidarity, a healthy understanding of how important it is to respect and promote the common good, is the way of moving towards a new moment in time. On the contrary, "heaviness of heart" resulting from prejudice and discrimination, hatred and grudges, or disputes that assert oneself as the owner of reason, far from the vigorous and transforming love of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, will harm society. Within this horizon, exists the first responsibility of learning and practicing lightheartedness which brings about the ability to see more clearly new paths. Society, in order to not loose itself, needs people capable of leading with lightheartedness.

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