

THE LEADER'S EDGE

*“Instruct a wise man and he will be wiser still; teach a righteous man and he will add to his learning.”
(Proverbs 9:9)*

<p>Category: <i>Staff Ministry</i></p> <p>Rating: <i>Content: B</i> <i>Style: B</i></p> <p>Memorable Quotes</p> <p><i>The tyranny of the “or” vs. the genius of the “and”.</i></p> <p><i>“Successful second chair leaders are able to maintain contentment with the present without losing their sense of God-given calling for the future.”</i></p> <p><i>“If a leader can’t be a follower, he can’t be an effective leader.”</i></p> <p><i>“How can I redesign my role in a way that will lead to better results for the organization and be more fulfilling for me?”</i></p> <p><i>“Second chair leaders need to think like first chair leaders by taking an organizationalwide perspective.”</i></p> <p><i>[Joseph’s] “dreams were not disqualified, but the dreamer had to go through an</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">BOOK SUMMARY</p> <p>Leading from the Second Chair by Mike Bonem and Roger Patterson, Jossey-Bass, 2005.</p> <p>Core Content</p> <p>The authors define a Second Chair Leader this way: “A person in a subordinate role whose influence with others adds value throughout the organization.” This book grapples with three paradoxes which people in a #2 ministry position need to work through in order to maximize their effectiveness. The focus is on a “both-and” approach, living in the middle, sustaining creative tension between both ends of the spectrum:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Subordinate-Leader paradox2. Deep-Wide paradox3. Contentment-Dreaming paradox <p>Joseph in the Old Testament is used as a prime model of demonstrating these paradoxes in a positive way. Each paradox is fleshed out in some detail, followed by a section directed toward First Chair Leaders, outlining their role in partnering with their second chair staff members. The book concludes with some practical advice for leaving the second chair position in a positive manner. Though some ministry skills are mentioned, this book focuses primarily on cultivating healthy attitudes and quality relationships.</p> <p>Here is an outline of the material covered with each paradox:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Subordinate-Leader Paradox The Line of Responsibility and Accountability<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Finding the Line – clarify expectations➤ Crossing the Line – accidentally or intentionally➤ Changing the Line – negotiating adjustments2. Deep-Wide Paradox<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Balance “big picture” (wide angle) and detailed (zoom) perspectives➤ Avoid silos & achieve cross-functional collaboration➤ Four Practices:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Be a pulse takerb) Be a vision amplifierc) Be a leader multiplierd) Be a gap filler3. Contentment-Dreaming Paradox<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Definition: <i>Contentment is a choice to stay and grow and excel, for a season, regardless of current circumstances.</i>➤ Don’t confuse contentment with complacency
--	---

<p><i>intense refining process to prepare him for dream fulfillment.”</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Anchor contentment in your identity in Christ, your calling, your life-giving relationships and the fruit of your ministry ➤ Practice “dream stewardship”, following Joseph’s example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>Be careful what you say and to whom you say it</i> b) <i>Check your ego at the door</i> c) <i>Practice both now and later (Matt. 25:21)</i> d) <i>Trust God in the details</i> e) <i>Mesh your dreams with those of your first chair leader</i>
<p>Personal Take Away:</p> <p><i>How could you use this book as a tool in launching productive conversations with your first chair leader?</i></p> <p><i>What is one next step you want to take in applying insights from this book to your ministry context?</i></p>	<p>Discussion Starters</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How do you balance appropriate subordination to your senior pastor with strong personal leadership in your ministry? 2. How can you stretch the scope of your leadership responsibility and authority? 3. How does Joseph model sustaining the “both-and” dynamics of the Subordinate-Leader paradox in . . . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ His role in Potiphar’s household? ➤ His role in prison? ➤ His role with Pharoah? 4. What enables you to make “big picture” contributions to the overall ministry of your church? 5. What gives your first chair leader confidence that you are, at the same time, paying attention to your areas of specialization? 6. Give examples of how you have been able to function as a pulse taker, vision amplifier, leader multiplier, gap filler. 7. On a scale of 1 to 10(ten high), how would you rate your current level of ministry contentment? What could cause it to elevate? 8. How well do your God-given dreams mesh with those of your first chair leader? What could help you move toward greater vision alignment?