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Reverend Doctor Nicole Massie Martin, born and educated in Baltimore, Maryland, holds a magna cum laude triple major from Vanderbilt University, a Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary, and a Doctor of Ministry from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. She serves as the Chief Impact Officer at Christianity Today and the founder of Soulfire International Ministries, and is active in her local Kingdom Fellowship AME Church. Dr. Martin, a gifted writer and author of two books: *Made to Lead: Empowering Women for Ministry* and *Leaning In, Letting Go: A Lenten Devotional*, is on the executive council of the National Association of Evangelicals, Fuller Theological Seminary's board of trustees, and the National Advisory Council for the Salvation Army. She is a founding board member at the Center for Christianity and Public Life, inducted into Morehouse College's Board of Preachers, and a co-catalyst for the Lausanne Scripture Engagement Global Network. Dr. Martin is married to her best friend, Dr. Mark Martin, and they have two amazing daughters, Addison and Josephine.

“While leadership in the world is based on competency or skills, leadership in the kingdom is based on character and humility.”

REACT

Whether it is a boss, government, or church authority, everyone submits to something.

Think about the authorities in your own life and how successful you are in recognizing and submitting to their authority. Even those authorities with whom you disagree.

Part of growing as a leader is recognizing that God has placed each of these authorities in place for a reason. It is in your willingness to submit to them that demonstrates your submission to God.

“Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God.” –Romans 13:1

You will discover your greatest purpose, effectiveness, and freedom when you submit to the authorities God has placed in your life. Good leaders submit to authority, even as others submit to their authority.





THINK ABOUT HOW YOU LIVE YOUR LIFE. DO YOUR WORDS AND ACTIONS CAUSE PEOPLE TO WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT GOD?

REFLECT

“Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.” –Matthew 28:18

As a leader, you hold a unique position in God’s plan. Just as Jesus’ followers were reminded of his authority before being sent out to share the gospel with the world, your position as a leader is rooted in your submission to him.

So, what would it look like for you to surrender completely to God’s authority in your life? How would your life and your leadership change?

RESPOND

Jesus’ leadership manifested in love. As you lead, is your love for God and for those you lead obvious in your words, actions, and life?

Submission is based on trust. As you consider how wholeheartedly you can submit to God, perhaps you recognize that your trust in him is not complete.

What are some of the issues or events that prevent you from trusting and submitting completely? It is only when you can honestly and completely express your feelings to God that these areas will be exposed and healed.

REVIEW

- Godly leadership is not freedom from authority but choosing to submit to God.
- Our submission and trust come from recognizing and experiencing the deep love of God.
- Jesus models for us true leadership in his desire to serve and not to be served.

MEMORIZE

“WHOEVER WANTS TO BE A LEADER AMONG YOU MUST BE YOUR SERVANT, AND WHOEVER WANTS TO BE FIRST AMONG YOU MUST BECOME YOUR SLAVE.” –MATTHEW 20:26-27

ACTION STEPS

- Write down three characteristics of someone who humbly submits to God.
- Identify and address the barriers you have to full submission to God.
- Ask God to reveal ways you can live and lead under his authority.