**Lead for All**

Christine Caine

As I travel around the globe, I’ve come to realize two things: First, coffee is an international love language, and second, women may be from different cultures, but we all struggle to internalize a leadership identity. I hear it all the time. ‘I’m just a mom, not a leader. I’m not a leader because I don’t work full-time. My boss is the leader, not me. I haven’t written a book or a blog, so I’m not a leader. I don’t have a title so I’m not a leader. I’m in college and too young to be a leader. I don’t have the right qualifications to be a leader. I don’t want to be a leader because I only see men leading.’

I could go on, but I think you get my point. My purpose in founding Propel is to help Christian women realize that, as followers of Jesus Christ, we are all called to lead people to Him. **Therefore, we are all leaders.** We are all in different seasons, circumstances, places, have different gifts, talents, and callings, but we all have a responsibility to keep moving forward as we follow Jesus, and to lead others to Him along the way.

It’s important to remember that leadership is not simply building a public platform, being on a speaking circuit, standing behind a pulpit, a title, or working in an office. Nor is it a reserved parking spot, the corner suite, or a name plaque. We all have a degree of influence within our own sphere and have a responsibility to steward that influence for the glory of God. Being on maternity leave, homeschooling children, volunteering in a NGO, serving in your local elementary school, looking after aging parents, being a stay-at-home mom, or being in college doesn’t disqualify you from leadership. Likewise, being a CEO, an entrepreneur, or the captain of a basketball team doesn’t automatically guarantee you’re a leader.

Our commitment to personal leadership development should be a primary focus of our lives. Since it is to our Father’s glory that we bear much fruit (John 15:8) we should all desire to increase our influence and impact in the world that we live. Yes, you are a leader. When did I become a leader? The day I said yes to following Jesus, not the day I was given a position or a title. I recognize that seasons constantly change, but we never stop leading. Whether you are married or single, young or old, have children or not, educated or untrained, in a boardroom or in your living room, you are called to lead others to Christ. Leadership is not for an elite few. Don’t excuse laziness, indifference, or apathy by saying “I’m not a leader.”

Life is always changing. When I married Nick, things changed. When I had my daughters things changed. When I moved to the United States, things changed. When I started writing, things changed. When I started traveling to teach, things changed. When I started A21, things changed. When I started Propel, things changed. Things will always change because I am always moving forward and growing. Changing seasons does not denote a changing mandate.

We must change our language from **I’m not** to **I am**. We all should be committed to consistently:

**GROWING**

Grow ourselves in order to effectively grow others

**LEARNING**

Learn to be more effective in whatever we are called to do

**CHANGING**

Change daily to the image of Christ

**STRETCHING**

Stretch constantly to stay flexible

**ENLARGING**

Enlarge our heart to serve people more effectively

**EXCELLENCE**

Excelling is a by-product of being a Christian, not a CEO

**RESPONSIBILITY**

Responsible to the commission we have been entrusted with

**INFLUENCING**

Influence as salt and light in our world

**INCREASING**

Increase our personal capacity

**MULTIPLYING**

We are all called to make disciples

Jesus turned prostitutes, housewives, mothers, prominent women, possessed women, single women, married women, widowed women, childless women, wealthy women, connected women, poor women, and disenfranchised women into leaders in his movement. You are a leader because you are a follower of Christ. Change your **I’m not** into a bold **I am**!