

What is Biblical Church Government? Lesson 9 – Servant Leadership

Introduction:

- Today there is a great tendency to adopt the _____ management ideas and try use them to accomplish the work of God’s kingdom.

Col 2.8 See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

- Jesus taught us by His own example the pattern of _____ leadership.

Mark 10.42–43 And Jesus called them to him and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. 43 But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant,

- To be a _____ in God’s kingdom you must take the pathway of sacrifice, suffering, and servanthood.

1. The _____ of power faced by leaders.

- There are several things that _____ church leaders:

A. Church leaders are tempted to _____ what other leaders and churches are doing in order to achieve similar results.

- It can be easy to think that if you do a ministry activity the same way someone else does it, then your ministry will automatically become _____.
- God blesses and prospers different churches in _____.
- We are not called to be successful as the world measures success, but to be _____ to obey the pattern of ministry given to us in Scripture.

B. Church leaders are tempted to think that if it _____, it must be right.

- Just because something appears successful does not necessarily mean that God has _____ it.
- God only blesses what He _____ us to do!

- When success is our main goal, the Bible is no longer directing our ministry, and we have _____ it with whatever we think will bring success.
- That approach to church leadership leads us _____ from the Bible, and toward our own wisdom.

C. Church leaders are tempted to grow _____ churches instead of _____ churches.

- In today's world, a person's greatness is measured by what he's _____.
- This mindset creates _____ between churches and ministries, turning them against each other, instead of bringing them together as partners in the Gospel.
- Often church members _____ obvious problems in the leader's life or family or ministry, as long as he continues to bring in the people who keep it all going.
- Our greatest desire should be that God is _____ with us in the way that we serve Him.

2. The Biblical pattern of _____ leadership.

- Christ calls us to _____ our own interests as leaders, and to genuinely seek the well-being of those we are called to serve.

Matt 23.10-12 (NASB) Do not be called leaders; for One is your Leader, that is, Christ. 11 But the greatest among you shall be your servant. 12 Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted.

2 Cor 1.24 Not that we lord it over your faith, but we work with you for your joy, for you stand firm in your faith.

2 Cor 4.5 But For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.

1 Pet 5.3 not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.

A. Instead of merely copying what other leaders are doing, church leaders should _____ the needs of the people directly under their care, and wisely _____ the work of the ministry to meet their needs.

- Jesus never evangelized the same way _____.

- Jesus _____ His approach to the individual needs and personalities of the people He ministered to.
- Since Christians have unique combinations of spiritual gifts and personalities from the Lord, church leaders should seek to equip and develop them so that they are _____ to minister in the ways the Lord has gifted them.
- Consider how _____ the twelve disciples were.

B. Instead of merely doing what works, the priority of church leaders should be to faithfully do what the _____ teach.

- Just doing what works is often just relying on _____ to accomplish the work of the ministry, instead of relying on the power of God.

1 Cor 2.4–5** and my speech and my message were **not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

- When church leaders are _____ to the Word of God, and _____ to the needs of the people, God is free to bless their ministry.
- When church leaders seek to make sure their ministry practices are in agreement with the Scriptures, they can have _____ that their ministry is being faithful to the Lord.

C. Instead of being tempted to merely grow bigger churches, church leaders should be committed to growing _____ churches.

- A healthy church is a church that is faithful to proclaim and practice the Scriptures, and leaves the _____ to God.

***1 Cor 3.6–7** I planted, Apollos watered, **but God gave the growth.** 7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, **but only God who gives the growth.** Production measures the externals, the visible results.*

- Spiritual fruit is often hidden and is difficult to measure _____.

***1 Sam 16.7b** For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.”*

- Sometimes being faithful to building a healthy church will appear in the eyes of men to be a _____, but in the eyes of God to be a _____.

- Sometimes a church that appears in the eyes of men to be a success, is actually a failure in the eyes of God because it is not a _____ church.

***1 Cor 4.1–2** This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. 2 Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.*

3. Paul's _____ of servant leadership

- A. Paul avoided all self-promotion and _____, and he is a wonderful example of having a humble, servant spirit.

***Gal 6.14** But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.*

- Paul always promoted _____, never himself.

***2 Cor 4.5** For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as **your servants for Jesus' sake**.*

- He reminded the Corinthians that he and Apollos were _____, and nothing more.

***1 Cor 3.6-7** I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. 7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters **is anything**, but only God who gives the growth.*

***1 Cor 3.21a** So let no one boast in men.*

- B. Paul _____ with his converts that their discipline, weakness, and humiliation became his.

***2 Cor 12.21** I fear that when I come again my God may humble me before you, and I may have to mourn over many of those who sinned earlier and have not repented of the impurity, sexual immorality, and sensuality that they have practiced.*

- C. Paul would lower himself so that he might raise others up in faith and _____.

***2 Cor 13.9** For we are glad when we are weak and **you are strong**. **Your restoration is what we pray for**.*

- D. Paul willingly _____ for the sake of the church's health and strength.

***Col. 1.24** Now I rejoice in **my sufferings for your sake**, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church*

2 Tim 2.10 **Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.**

E. Paul _____ personal gain and personal advantage for the good of others.

1 Cor 10.33 **just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved.**

Conclusion:

- **Our Lord’s repeated instruction on love, humility, and servanthood, teaches us three important lessons:**
 - **God hates _____ in the lives of His servants who lead His people.**

James 4.6 **But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”**

- **The fact that Jesus had to repeatedly teach the disciples about love and humble servanthood shows how _____ it is to live out this principle.**
- **Our Lord’s repeated teaching shows that humility, love, and servanthood are _____ qualities of the Christian church.**

Phil 2.5–8 **Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.**