

Leadership in the Church, Part 2

February 13, 2022

We're talking about leadership, and as you know, we need leadership, whether it's in the home, at work, in a city, in the country, or in the church. With good leaders, there can be success, for they lead, they give direction, they provide protection, they help solve problems, and are good examples to the people they are serving.

Now without question, the greatest leader in the world is Jesus Christ.

- Jesus was humble, and this was seen in that He always put others first, He always served, He was always a servant. Mark 10:45, Phil. 2:3-8
- Jesus loved people, He cared for people, He helped people, He fed people, and He met people's needs. Luke 19:41
- Jesus performed miracles - He healed, He cast out demons, He raised people from the dead.
- Jesus loved people, was patient with people, had compassion on people, and He forgave people. Matt. 9:36-38
- Jesus led people, and people followed Him. He had 12 apostles and lots of disciples.
- Jesus really influenced people. He changed people's thinking and He changed people's lives.
- Jesus always told the truth, He always taught the truth - He never lied. He told people what they needed to hear, and He told them in a clear and loving way. John 1:14
- Jesus was holy. In fact, He was perfect, He never sinned. And He was a perfect example to people of how to live. Ps. 45:7
- Jesus is building the church, and He will keep building it until the end of this age. Rapture.
- And not long from now, He will come back as a King. (Zech. 14, Ps. 47.) And He will rule the world – and He will rule righteously, powerfully, wisely, and lovingly. Isaiah 42:1-4

Paul was a great leader too, and also an example we are to learn from. Acts 20

- Acts 20:17-19. Paul was a humble man, one who always put God and others first. Phil 2
- Acts 20:20. Paul had a heart and a love for God's Word, and he did all he could do to get the Word out, to preach it and teach it to His disciples and the crowds. 2 Tim. 4:1-2
- Acts 20:21. Paul was a solemn man, one who was sober and serious minded.
- Acts 20:21. Paul knew that the gospel was the most important message, and He kept preaching it, telling people they needed to repent of their sins, and put their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and in Him alone. 1 Cor 15:1-2
- Acts 20:22-23. Paul sacrificed his life, and he greatly suffered for the Lord. 2 Tim. 3:10-12
- Acts 20:24. Paul had a clear vision and purpose for his life, a desire to fulfill the Great Commission, to make disciples of all nations. Acts 9:15, Acts 26:12-20
- Acts 20:25-27. Paul had a clear conscience - He did all he was supposed to do. 2 Tim. 4:7-8

Acts 20:28. Paul knew and carried out his role as a leader, as an overseer, for he guarded and protected the church, and he shepherded and cared for the church. John 21:15-17

- Acts 20:29-31. Paul was spiritually alert, he knew who the enemy was, and he warned the saints about them, and spiritually speaking, he fought against them. Eph. 6:10-18
- Acts 20:32. Paul was confident in God's Word, of its supremacy, sufficiency, and power, of its ability to build up and encourage the church.
- Acts 20:33. Paul was not covetous, greedy, or selfish. He didn't want things for himself, he wanted everything for the Lord, and for others. Gal. 2:20
- Acts 20:34. Paul was a man who really thought about others, and really cared for the needs of others. Phil. 2:2-3
- Acts 20:35. Paul was a very hard worker; he was like a hard-working farmer. 2 Tim. 2:6
- Acts 20:35. Paul was a kind, gentle, and giving person, ministering to the needs of those who were weak, who were hurting, who were in need. 1 Thess. 2:7-8
- Acts 20:36. Paul was a man of prayer, for he knew that it was ultimately God who did the work. 1 Cor. 3:6
- Acts 20:37. Paul was a man who really loved others, who was devoted to others, a man who had godly relationships and friendships. Phil. 1:8

Might we learn from the life of Paul, from his character, words, and example.

Now last week we talked about elders, and God wants elders to be the leaders of the church. Now what specifically is the purpose of the elders?

- They are to lead the church in the direction that Christ commands.
- They are to spiritually feed the church, to teach her God's Word.
- They are to preach the gospel, to tell the lost how they can be saved from sin and death.
- They are to protect and guard the church from enemies, error, and false teachers.
- They are to love and care for the church, for the believers in the church, to make sure her spiritual needs are met.
- They are to be a good example to all the believers in the church - 1 Tim. 4:12.
- They are to make the decisions that need to be made regarding the oversight, direction, protection, feeding, and care of the church. 1 Tim. 5:17

As elders, our desire is that God's purposes and commands are carried out. And God wants us to have a common mind, the mind of Christ, in shepherding the church. Ps. 133

- Now in our church, the elders get together on a regular basis to talk about the church, the direction of the church, the needs in the church, and decisions that need to be made.
- This takes place when there's humility, and a love for God and a love for the people, and faith, a looking to God and a dependence on Him for wisdom, direction, and answers.
- In Acts 15 we read that the apostles and elders are in this meeting, and they're submitted to Christ and one another; and they discussed this problem, and God gave them unity of mind, and wisdom, and a decision that they then communicated to the people.

Last week we talked about how the designated leaders in the church are the elders. And there are 2 different offices, the overseer and the deacon. Phil. 1:1; 1 Tim. 3:1, 8. And the elders, the overseers and deacons, are to work together in leading the church.

- The character of the overseer and the deacon is really the same, but the responsibility, the roles differ a little bit. The overseer is the primary teaching elder. Titus 1:9 says this about the overseer - *"holding fast the faithful word... so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict."*
- Now the word deacon means servant or minister, and the deacons serve in different ways, meeting the various needs in a church. Acts 6

Now as elders, we don't have a position above you or over you, but rather, we are your servants, and we have a special role of oversight on your behalf.

- And we are involved in bearing a concern for the entire congregation. And we get together to pray, to look at God's Word, to discuss needs, to make decisions, to stand together as a team in shepherding, leading, ruling, and overseeing the church.
- Now the overseers and deacons are not independent of one another - one doesn't have authority over another. But in fact, we're all on the same level, and we work and lead together - humbly, lovingly, and unitedly, for the purposes and glory of God.

1 Peter 5:1-4 - *"Shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness, nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock."*