

Christian Leadership

I. UNDERSTANDING THE MOTIVATING POWERS OF A SERVANT-LEADER

A. VALUE GOD'S FLOCK (ACTS 20:28)

B. VALUE CHRIST'S LOVE AND SACRIFICE (2 COR. 5:14-15)

C. VALUE PERSONAL GROWTH IN CHRIST (1 TIM. 4:15)

(1 Tim. 4:7-8; 1 Tim. 4:15; 1 Tim. 4:16; Acts 20:28; 2 Cor. 4:16; 2 Cor. 3:18; 1 Pet. 2:2; 2 Peter 3:18; Phil. 1:24-25; Prov. 1:5)

II. BECOMING AN EFFECTIVE SERVANT-LEADER FOR JESUS CHRIST

“He also chose David His servant and took him from the sheepfolds; from the care of the ewes with suckling lambs He brought him to shepherd Jacob His people, and Israel His inheritance. So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, and guided them with his skillful hands” (Psalm 78:70-72)

A. CHARACTER

1. Integrity in Our Sexual Conduct

2. Self-control

B. SKILLS

1. Skill in Organization (Management)

a. Be Diligent (Wholehearted)

b. Be Faithful in Little Things

1. Show up

2. Be on Time

3. Follow Through

c. Be Organized

d. Be Checking Attitudes

e. Be Proactive and Deliberate

- f. Be a Delegator
- g. Be a Practitioner of Regular Self-Evaluation

2. Skill with People

- a. Be Gentle and Patient
- b. Be a Good Listener
- c. Be an Encourager
- d. Be Compassionate
- e. Be Tactful
- f. Be Hospitable
- g. Be a Uniter, not a Divider
- h. Be a Prayer Supporter

3. Skill in Communication

- a. Principles of Communication from Proverbs
 1. The wise seek to communicate well and for the blessing of others
(Prov. 2:18b; 15:23; 18:4; 16:21b)
 2. Good communication is controlled and guarded
(Prov. 10:10; 13:3a)
 3. Words can heal and encourage or hurt and destroy
(Prov. 12:18; 12:25; 15:1b; 16:24; 18:21a)
 4. The best communication is always honest and truthful
(Prov. 12:19a; 12:22; 16:13b)
 5. The wise are good listeners, receptive to advice and correction
(Prov. 1:5a; 12:15b; 15:28a; 20:5; 25:12)
- b. General Principles of Communication
 1. Be aware that skillful communication is hard work
 2. Learn to speak gently, calmly, graciously, and tactfully
 3. Be aware of the ways you block good communication

4. Make a conscious effort to be a patient listener
5. Be proactive in your communication
6. Be sure to clarify responsibilities and work assignments
7. Provide adequate instruction when you give a person a job to do
8. Don't leave people in the dark
9. Don't spring important decisions on people
10. Speak words of encouragement
11. Stop the rumor mill before it stops you

4. Skill in Feeding the Flock (Teaching)

- a. Develop a Clearly Articulated Strategy for Teaching the Word of the Lord—the Bible.
- b. Strategy for Teaching Effectively
(1 Tim. 5:17-18; Rom. 12:6-7; Eph. 4:11; 1 Cor. 12:28)
 1. A Call to Study
 - a. Time for Study and Preparation
 - b. Basic Bible Tools for Study
 - c. CDs or Tapes of other Preachers and Teachers
 - d. Homiletic Books
 - e. Bible Conferences
 - f. Bible School Training
 2. A Call to Continually Improve Your Teaching Skills
 - a. Accuracy
 - b. Outline
 - c. Application
 - d. Illustration
 - e. Delivery
 - Be Yourself
 - Simple and Clear
 - Voice Inflection
 - Animation
 - Humor
 - Passion
 - Authority
 - Using Visual Aids
 - Controlling Your Material and Time
 - Conclusion and Response

Self-Discipline

The Fruit of the Holy Spirit
Galatians 5:23

I. WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT SELF-DISCIPLINE

“I defy you to read the life of any saint that has ever adorned the life of the Church without seeing at once that the greatest characteristic in the life of that saint was discipline and order. Invariably it is the universal characteristic of all the outstanding men and women of God... Obviously it is something that is thoroughly scriptural and absolutely essential.” Martyn Lloyd-Jones

- “A man without self-control is like a city broken into and left without walls” (Prov. 25:28)
- “Whoever is slow to anger is better than the mighty and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city” (Prov. 16:32)
- “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace...self-control” (Gal. 5:22a, 23a)
- “For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline” (2 Tim. 1:7)
- “And everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; but I buffet my body and make it my slave, lest possibly, after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified.” (I Cor. 9:25-27)
- “For the overseer must be above reproach as God’s steward...hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled” (Titus 1:8)
- “Train [discipline] yourself for godliness” (1 Tim. 4:7)

II. HOW TO DEVELOP SELF-DISCIPLINE

A. START BY MAKING A CONSCIOUS DECISION TO BE A SELF-DISCIPLINED PERSON

B. CONSISTENTLY PRAY ABOUT DEVELOPING GREATER SELF-CONTROL

C. TAKE DEFINITE, PRACTICAL STEPS TO LEARN SELF-DISCIPLINE

- 1. Start small**
- 2. Be on time**
- 3. Do the hardest job first**
- 4. Organize your life**
- 5. Accept correction**
- 6. Practice self-denial**
- 7. Welcome responsibility**
- 8. Hold yourself accountable to someone else**
- 9. Take care of your body, it's the only one you have**
- 10. Seek to be disciplined in every area of your life**

Shepherding the Flock

I. THE GENERAL NEW TESTAMENT CONCEPT OF ELDERSHIP: PASTORAL OVERSIGHT OF GOD'S FLOCK; PASTORAL ELDERSHIP (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-2; 1 Timothy 5:17; Titus 1:7)

II. THE FOUR SPECIFIC TASKS OF SHEPHERD-ELDERS

A. TEACH-FEED GOD'S FLOCK (Titus 1:9; 1 Tim. 3:2; 5:17-18; 1 Thess. 5:12)

B. PROTECT (Acts 20:28-31; Titus 1:9; Acts 15; Hebrews 13:17)

- Against False Teaching
- Against Church Infighting
- By Disciplining Sin

C. LEAD (1 Tim. 5:17; 1 Thess. 5:12, 13; Phil. 1:1; 1 Peter 5:2; Titus 1:7)

D. HEAL (Acts 20:35; James 5:14)

Who Is Qualified for the Task?

I. THE DUTIES OF AN ELDER

- To protect the church from unfit men in leadership
- To help improve the elders' moral and spiritual character
- To help improve the elders' shepherding skills

II. THE BIBLICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR AN ELDER (1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:2, 3)

A. A DESIRE FOR ELDERSHIP MOTIVATED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT (Acts 20:28; 1 Tim. 3:1)

"Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God." (Acts 20:28)

"It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do." (1 Tim. 3:1)

"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." (1 Peter 5:2)

B. MEETING BIBLICAL QUALIFICATIONS

1. Moral and Spiritual Character Requirements

- a. A Good Reputation both Inside and Outside the Church
- b. Marital and Family Life
- c. Self-Control
- d. Integrity
- e. Forbearing and Peaceable
- f. Hospitable and Loving
- g. Spiritually Mature

2. Abilities

- a. Able to Manage the Family Household Well (1 Tim. 3:4, 5; Titus 1:6)
- b. Able to Provide a Model for Others to Follow (1 Peter 5:3)
- c. Able to Teach and Defend the Faith (Titus 1:9)

III. EXAMINATION OF POTENTIAL ELDERS (1 Tim. 3:10; 5:22, 24, 25)

“Let these also [like overseers] first be tested [examined]; then let them serve...”
(1 Tim. 3:10*a*)

“The sins of some men are quite evident, going before them to judgment; for others, their *sins* follow after. Likewise also, deeds that are good are quite evident, and those which are otherwise cannot be concealed.” (1 Tim. 5:24, 25)

The Challenge of Transitioning Leadership

“What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” (2 Tim. 2:2)

I. JESUS CHRIST PREPARED THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS

“And he went up on the mountain and called to him those whom he desired, and they came to him. And he appointed twelve...so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach.” (Mark 3:13-14)

II. PAUL PREPARED THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS

“For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.” (Acts 20:27)

III. TIMOTHY PREPARED THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS

“What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” (2 Tim. 2:2)

A. THEIR CHARACTER: Faithful, trustworthy, reliable

B. THEIR ABILITY TO TEACH: “the kind who will also be competent to teach others”

IV. ELDERS ARE TO PREPARE THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS

Ephesians 4:11-12 “And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip [or prepare] the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.”

A. A VISION AND COMMITMENT TO TRAINING FUTURE LEADERS

1. Understand the Plan
2. Be the Man

B. A STRATEGY AND PLAN FOR TRAINING FUTURE ELDERS

1. Develop an Eye for People and Potential
2. Open Doors for Potential Leaders
3. Build Relationships with Potential Leaders
4. Provide Education and Resources for Potential Leaders and Elders

a. Bibles and Books

- b. The Tape Ministry
- c. Developing Mentoring Relationships
- d. Elders' Meetings
- e. Conferences
- f. Short Term Missions Trips
- g. Formal Schooling

5. Pray for Future Leaders and Elders

V. STRATEGY FOR IMPLEMENTATION, EVALUATION, AND CHANGE

A. CREATE A SPIRIT OF EVALUATION

B. CREATE A SPIRIT OF EXCELLENCE

“Not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord.” (Romans 12:11)

“Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men.” (Col. 3:23)

“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might.” (Ecc. 9:10a)

C. CREATE THE RIGHT CHRISTIAN ATTITUDES FOR EVALUATION AND CHANGE

1. Be Gentle and Patient

2. Be a Good Listener

3. Be an Encourager

4. Be Tactful

5. Be a Uniter, not a Divider

D. APPOINT A CHANGE AGENT

E. GET OUTSIDE HELP AND RESOURCES

F. PRAY

A Concise Guide to Managing Conflict According to Biblical Principles

I. CONFLICT MANAGEMENT MUST BE CONTROLLED BY BIBLICAL PRINCIPALS

A. SPIRIT-CONTROL

- In Conflict, Be Controlled by the Spirit, not the Flesh

B. LOVE

- In Conflict, Be Controlled by Christ-like Love

C. HUMILITY

- In Conflict, Be Controlled by Christ-like Humility

D. PRIDE

- In Conflict, Don't Act out of Pride

E. PEACEMAKING

- In Conflict, Pursue Peace and Unity

F. ANGER

- In Conflict, Be Slow to Anger

G. REVENGE

- In Conflict, Don't Hold a Grudge or Seek Revenge

H. THE TONGUE

- In Conflict, Control the Uncontrollable Tongue

I. LISTENING

- In Conflict, Be a Careful Listener

J. GENTLENESS

- In Conflict, Be Gentle and Patient with One Another

K. FORGIVENESS

- In Conflict, Forgive and Forbear with One Another

L. GOSSIP

- In Conflict, Don't Gossip or Reveal Secrets

M. RECONCILIATION

- In Conflict, Go To and Speak Truthfully

N. COURAGE

- In Conflict, Stand Firm for the Gospel

O. SELF-EXAMINATION

- In Conflict, Examine First One's Own Heart

P. PRAYER

- In Conflict, Pray and Trust God

Getting Organized

- 1. Organize Your Life and Stay with It**
- 2. Use a Daily Planner or a Computer Program**
- 3. Plan Your Day and Week**
- 4. Create a Checklist**
- 5. Organize Your Desk or Workplace**
- 6. Work with Files**
- 7. When You Work, Work!**
- 8. Seize Small Units of Time**
- 9. Don't Procrastinate**
- 10. Do Your Most Important Tasks First**
- 11. Follow Through with Your Responsibilities**
- 12. Don't Be a Slave to the Phone**
- 13. Delegate, Delegate, Delegate!**
- 14. Plan for Rest, Exercise, and Family**
- 15. Pray About Your Over-Busyness and Schedule**
- 16. Learn To Say No**