

Biblical leadership in the Church is hard to find True or False?

I was asked by a Pastor to train up one of his new leaders to take a men's group My response was that ALL LEADERS need to understand the Biblical principles of Leadership Thus this paper which was inspired by the late J Oswald Sanders

I don't know if you're like me & find these days true leadership is lacking in the workforce & in the Church As many in positions are there as what I call YES PEOPLE who go along with management therefore, they are selected over others who will not cause problems by having foresight & passion for their role

My assessment there are both good (excellent) & not so good (puppets) leaders In the context of Christianity There are natural leaders & spiritual leaders lets define the two types of leaders

NATURAL	SPIRITUAL	Self-confident
Confident in God	Knows men	But also knows
God	Makes own decisions	Seeks Gods will in decision
making Ambitious		Self-effacing
methods	Finds out Gods methods	Own
Delights in serving Gods people	Motivated by personal gain	Enjoys the authority
love of God & people Independent		Motivated by
		God dependent

Lord Montgomery - there are seven ingredients in a spiritual leader

- 1 He should be able to sit back & avoid getting immersed in detail
- 2 He must be petty
- 3 He must be pompous
- 4 He must be a good picker of men
- 5 He should trust those under him, & let them get on with their job without interference
- 6 He must have the power of clear decision
- 7 He should inspire confidence

Dr John R Mott suggests leaders ask themselves

- 1 Do I do the little things well
- 2 Do I know how to prioritize?
- 3 How do I use my leisure time?
- 4 Am I intense?
- 5 Do I take advantage of momentum?
- 6 Do I grow things?
- 7 How do I handle discouragement
- 8 How do I face impossible circumstances?
- 9 What's my weakest point?

Selection of a Leader Psalm 75:6,7 Promotion comes from God not man

1 Samuel 13:14 man after Gods heart Ezekiel 22:30 a man to stand in the gap

There is in great need of Godly leaders ones who are authoritative, one who knows where they are going, are wise & strong in their beliefs Being moral & one who is lead by the Holy Spirit Is, sacrificial one who has left the world behind to follow Christ The Church is at its strongest when leaders lead & move supernaturally in serving Gods people Leaders are chosen by election or appointment but they must be anointed by God to lead successfully Mans looks on the outside God looks on the heart Seek His face alone in the selection of leaders

Samuel Logan Brengle sums it up this way 'It is not won by promotion, but by many prayers & tears It is obtained by confession of sin, & much heart searching & humbling before God, by self-surrender, a courageous sacrifice of every idol, a bold deathless, uncompromising embracing of the Cross & by an eternal unfaltering looking unto Jesus crucified It is not gained by seeking great things for ourselves, but rather like Paul by counting those things that are gain to us as loss for Christ That is the great price, but it must be unflinchingly paid by Him who would not merely a nominal but a real spiritual leader of men, a leader whose power is recognized & felt in heaven, on earth & in hell'

Let's look at some principles based on the Word of God

1 Peter 5:1-7

1 Timothy 3:1-7 Jeremiah 45:5

1 LEADER IS A CALLED A OUT ONE we see it in scripture that not all Gods leaders volunteered for the position AW Tozer said 'A true & safe leader is likely to be one who has no desire to lead, but ids forced into a position of leadership by the inward pressure of the Holy Spirit & the press of the external situation'

Such leaders were Moses Exodus 3:1-21 Gideon Judges 6:11-24 Jeremiah 1:4-19 A sense unworthiness & inadequacy do not disqualify you from leadership they are a requirement as you rely on the Lord

Tozer goes on 'i believe it might be accepted as a fairly reliable rule of thumb that the man who is ambitious to lead is disqualified as a leader. The true leader will have no desire to lord it over Gods people but will be humble, gentle, self-sacrificing & altogether as ready to follow as to lea, when the Spirit makes it clear that a wiser & gifted man than himself has appeared'

God always prepares us for what He plans in our lives Adoniram Judson (Burma), Martin Luther (Reformer) & Hudson Taylor (China) are great examples He never tosses us into something that's too big or that He won't give us the necessary tools to fulfill His Will in & through your life

One of the attributes of being called is You will do things because God told you to & not what's expected of you Joshua seven times around Jericho Gideon uses horns, jars & flame to win a war Elisha asks King with leprosy to dip seven times in muddy water, Jesus even put mud on a blind man before asking him to wash it off That's called courage the highest degree of courage is seen in the person who is most fearful but refuses to bow to it When fear is replaced by faith in God

Do you have a strong desire to serve God?
witnessed that God has a leadership role?

Have others
Are you up for a challenge?

2 LEADER MUST BE FULL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT & WISDOM Acts 6;3 The base requirement is to be full of the Holy Spirit men of a honest report integrity & full of wisdom Its interesting to note wisdom & power go hand in hand Today we need the wisdom that only God can give (not knowledge) tp operate the gifts of power to be effective to counter the devils tactic's Ask for wisdom James 1:8 Please note both of these qualities the person is to be FULL

Spiritual leadership can be exercised only by Spirit filled men Acts 6;3,5 The Holy Spirit doesn't take control of any person against their will To be filled with the Spirit is to be controlled by the Spirit Acts 10:38

Have you experienced the filling of the Holy Spirit? Have you asked for wisdom as King Solomon did to lead his people? Are the fruits of the Spirit evident in your life?

3 LEADER AS A INFLUENCER the ability to influence others You can only lead others to the extent that you can influence them Paul was an influencer 1 Corinthians 2:1,4 It was said of Sir Winston Churchill 'Leadership is the capacity & will to rally men & women to a common purpose & the character which inspires confidence' 'A leader is a man who knows the road, who can go ahead & who can pull others after him' (Dr John Mott) 'A leader is a person who has the ability to get others to do what they don't want to do & to like it' (President Truman)

The degree of influence will depend on the personality of the man/woman leading When it comes to Spiritual Leadership personality enhanced by the Holy Spirit brings a passion & a magnetism to things of God A true God made leader may have natural abilities but are submitted to God Influencing those under them spiritually Realizing a leader can only take those under as far as they have gone themselves Jesus said 'follow me' to His disciples He knew where He was leading them The test of a true leader is whether anyone is following them

St Francis of Assisi 'i am saying that everybody follows thee, everyone desires to see thee, hear thee, obey thee & yet for all that thou art neither beautiful, nor learned, nor of noble family Whence comes it that it should be thee whom the world desires to follow'

We all influence people to differing degrees And for good & bad

Can you get others to do things they wouldn't normally try?
do you think you are influencing people?

What if any areas

4 LEADER IS TO A SERVANT When Jesus was speaking no doubt He had leadership in mind when Jesus said 'He who would be the greatest among you shall be the servant of all' Servicing the people whom are under us unselfishly caring for their needs in doing the work of the Kingdom

A leader is to be clothed in humility The word clothed refers to the white garment or apron worn by a slave The leader is to put on the slave's apron Pride must be dismantled with humility We are to react humbly before God & His people John 3:30 'He must increase, but I must decrease'

Jesus served His disciples but He expected His disciples to serve Him in return In other words respect what He asks of them To listen & obey is servanthood Again we look at Jesus He served His Father by listening & obeying His Fathers Will

How do you respond to those over & under you?
define humility in your life?
or both?

How would
Are you a Martha or a Mary

5 LEADER IS AN EXAMPLE TO THOSE WHOM HE LEADS Proving yourselves models for the flock to imitate We come alongside our people but from above implying we are lord it over them The character of the leader should be such that they demand respect, they inspire confidence & arouse aspirations in others Paul says they are to be of 'good reputation' There character is to be such as that no accusation would stick against them It was said of Wesley 'As unblameable a character in every respect I have not found another & I expect not find another on this side of eternity' ! Peter 5;3 'proving yourselves models for the flock to imitate'

Have you ever broken yourself of a bad habit?
dependent on praise of others?

Are you
Do you forgive easily?

6 LEADER IS MOTIVATED BY VISION Our motive is & only for His Kingdom not our desires, what we get out of it But what brings honor & glory to our Leader Jesus Christ People want to be lead unfortunately many with charisma lead people astray The Holy Spirit draws people to true leaders who can in turn give them direction & purpose I think of it this way if you're on a train you'll want to be going to your destination Same as Church with vision strategy is going

somewhere & the people want to get on board with it Our motive comes from our heart desire What's yours?

A leader is a person of Faith for Faith is vision Simply put vision is seeing beyond the natural & viewing into the supernatural to see the possibilities & Godly projections He has shown us Its spiritual insight Hebrews 11 Envisioning the end result of the methods & strategies that must be implemented to accomplish the tasks We only look behind to see how we can do it better Vision involves optimism & hope there is no room for pessimism unless its constructive & realistic Proverbs29:18 'Where there is no vision the people wander aimlessly'

Are you a seer who's able to see beyond the situation you face?
dreamer?

desire to get on board your vision?
focused on the task ahead, single vision?

Are you a

Can you create in others a

Are you like Paul 'this one thing I do'

7 LEADER FEEDS THE SHEEP If not feeding yourself can't feed others They read, study's WOG A fresh Word for people, a Word in season Hear what Spirit saying to Church Share whole counsel not pet topics that comfortable with Paul says able to teach implying has the ability, readiness, desire to share & impart to others truths from God We should most diligently study the Bible & pray for a constant & powerful illumination of the Spirit John Wesley was known as 'the man of one book'

Readers are learners 2 Timothy 4:13 Input releases output Some books are to be tested, others to be swallowed & some few to be chewed & digested

To pray for those under them goes along with feeding & caring for those under you

The flock of God is to properly fed & cared for 1 Peter 5:2 An effective pastoral care team & assimilation into the Church is essential 'close the door' There are those who are letches, needy problem people etc whom need to be dealt with wisely but firmly Whenever the Body has a need the whole Body should be activated ie serious illness, death, crisis And the leaders need to be at the forefront Genuine love, concern & action is evidence of a Shepherds heart

The Eastern shepherd would always go ahead of his flock John 10:4 'A good leader is one who hears the voice of God & activates the calling' 1 Corinthians 11:1

Are you genuinely interested in others' interests & achievement's? reader? under you? them?

In their
Are you a feeder & a
How do you personally care for those
Do you shun problem people or seek to work with

8 LEADER IS DISCIPLINED IN THEIR TIME punctual Prays daily Spends time God partner family doesn't ignore responsibilities (Busyness is a sin see teaching) Mary or Martha we shared serve but balance The most effective ministry & service comes from intimacy with Christ It is often said to look at a leader look at his family Are there children well controlled, are they hospitable, how much time do they spend as a family, what of their relationship with their spouse?

Only a disciplined person will rise to the highest office What you can't or haven't conquered you'll not be able to lead others their Word disciple comes from the root to be disciplined A willingness to learn, to be committed to the task at hand, is prepared to make sacrifice's, has learnt by failing, can conquer self, face challenges, DOES NOT PROCRASTINATE Discipline in tithe, sleep, diet, exercise...

Ephesians 5:16 It's not that of needing more time, but of making better use of the time we have Time can be lost, but it can never be retrieved It cannot be hoarded, it must be spent Nor can it be postponed Don't squander time but effective use of our time Plan your day how you spend every minute of your day Either master time or it will master you

Do you remain in control when things go wrong? disciplined person in all areas of your life? finish what you have started?

Are you a
Do you put off things &

9 LEADER IS DECISIVE especially when action needs to be taken acts swiftly Brings discipline loving reproach as required Acts on Holy Spirits leading even though it is a difficult situation Love cares enough to confront (see Biblical Principles in dealing with Conflict) When issues arise the leader acts quickly & effectively after prayer & any consultation required Not leaving the dirt swept under the carpet & opening division, disunity, gossip to enter Gods house

I heard a minister say 'I don't do confrontation' It's part of the role We have to do things we don't like doing but if we are in God He goes before to prepare the hearts Its never about

blame, who's right but it's how we can bring restoration, quickly resolving & bringing both parties together for the Kingdom sake

A true leader makes things happen when nothing is happening An initiator who's prepared to take risks to accomplish what they are called to do This type leader needs ones who will trust them & go alongside them not cautious objectors

How we react in humility or dictatorial when we are challenged or confronted? How do we handle disappointment & discouragement? criticism - objectively or defensively? How do you handle called upon to do so promptly? Can you make decisions when Would you consider yourself a peacemaker?

10 LEADER IS REAL no pretense They laugh & cries When down tells you doesn't hide behind his position Obviously there are issues a leader can't share but there are no secrets that are covered up under the guise of privacy The leader is accountable to those whom they lead meaning they submit to other leaders, share what they are feeling freely & without hesitation that they might offend others

Too be able to laugh, relax & play Are all necessary Even in Church & meetings when its fits humor should be introduced Laughter brings a release of joy To have a sense of humor is not unspiritual in fact it shows people you can be serious but fun too 'The joy of the Lord is your strength' Nehemiah

Can you laugh at yourself & are ok when they laugh at you? Do you know how to relax & take time out? Are you one to weep alongside with others?

11 LEADER RELEASES OTHERS IN GIFTINGS & TALENTS Who staff his weaknesses, looks to encourage those with gifts of the spirit to be trained & released Those with ministry gifts to function in administration, hospitality, pastoral care etc When the body functions it does a number of things 1 people feel they are valuable 2 people feel fulfilled doing what they feel Gods called them to do 3 people are free to minister without restrictions put on them 4 people feel a part of Gods body 5 the whole church is edified 6 people move in the Gifts of the Spirit bringing freedom. release & healing to the Body 7 it's a sign of a healthy church

One who delegates Exodus 18:25 DL Moody said 'Id rather put a thousand men to work than do the work of a thousand men' Getting best out of others is the aim Another aspect is replacement Discipleship is duplicating another you, one who will take over your role when it's time to move on Often the leader leaves then its look for someone else That's not truly caring for those under you that's neglect Jesus left 12 surely we can leave 1

Do you respect others opinions & ideas?
 can delight in others taking up new roles & tasks?
 cultivate people?
 others stuff up?

Do you find you
 Do you use people or
 Are you prepared & accepting when
 Do you direct or develop people?

12 LEADER IS MATURE this isn't referring to natural age but spiritual maturity They are not to be a novice, new convert, they are to have proved themselves Just as a plant needs time to grow & take root the process should never be rushed or it will bear no fruit or disfigured fruit
1 Timothy 3:10 Three things stable in character, spiritual in outlook & not ambitious for position It is unwise to give key positions to early even to those who hold promising talent as it can ruin them Paul didn't appoint elders in every Church on his first missionary journey Acts 14:23

William Barclay 'He must be prudently self-controlled, sober, frugal, enduring in toil, intelligent, without love of money, neither young or old, if possible, a father of a family, able to speak competently & of a good reputation'

How do you handle opposition to your viewpoint/ideas?
 friends outside of your Church circle?
 tact?

Are your
 Do you operate out of
 Do you welcome responsibility?

TO BE A LEADER THERE CAN BE A COST having to confront people on issues they will possibly reject you on. Getting too close to some you serve can cause jealousy so you keep a distance, it's a solo lonely role at times, if your effective you'll be attacked, being misunderstood, not appearing to do your job (the last.... did it) comparison **2 Corinthians 4:8-11** Paul knew the cost Fatigue the ever-increasing demands, the battle of priorities 4:15,16 **NO MAN IS EVER FULLY ACCEPTED UNTIL HE HAS FIRST OF ALL BEEN UTTERLY REJECTED** The pressure to perform to people's expectations Perspective & wisdom is required to stand & not waiver in God

My prayer for every leader 1 that they have the wisdom of God 2 they discern what is happening in the spiritual realm 3 that God would enlighten their eyes Eph 1:18

WHY DO LEADERS FALL It's been said **GOLD GLORY & GALS** - money, pride & infidelity are amongst the main causes Others include stiving for ambition, compromising, ego, popularity, infallibility, indispensability, depression, taking on more than you can chew, not doing what

called to do (not fulfilled), not qualified, a sense of failure & Jealousy of other leaders can all be downfalls

ADDITIONAL STUDY ON LEADERSHIP FROM NEHEMIAH

Nehemiah personality, character & methods are something to be adopted by all leaders HIS CHARACTER

1 HE WAS A MAN OF PRAYER it wasn't merely an exercise but part of his everyday life whether it be working & ordinary life 1:4,6;2:4; 4:4,9; 5:19; 6:14;13:14,22,29

2 HE DISPLAYED COURAGE in the face of danger He displayed firmness & fearlessness amongst a discouraged people 6:11

3 HE MANIFESTED GENUINE CONCERN FOR THE WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE He was grieved that there was no man to help the children of Israel 1:4-6; 2:10

4 HE EXERCISED FORESIGHT having secured the favorable attention of the King 2:8 He thought things carefully

5 HE COMMENCED WITH CAUTION 2:11 He was there three days Assessing situation not rushing into it An element of wisdom here

6 HE MADE CLEAR DECISIONS He did not deter from his goal No procrastination

7 HE POSSESSED THE QUALITY OF EMPATHY His willingness to understand & be sympathetic ear to problems & grievances Taking action as required 4:10-12; 5:1-5

8 HE DECISIONS & ACTIONS WERE NOT IMPARTIAL No respecter of persons 5:7.

9 HE WAS REALISTIC in his approach to problems 4:9

10 HE ACCEPTED RESPONSIBILITY he didn't evade issues, he carried out his assignments through to his accomplishments

He was an administrator, calm in crisis, fearless in danger, courageous decision maker, thorough in his organization, led by example, dealt with opposition, resolved threats, vigilant & he produced confidence in his followers

HIS METHODS

1 HE RAISED THE MORALE OF HIS COLLEAGUES He directed their thoughts away from the opposition & problems before them To produce faith & direction 2:20; 4:14,20; 8:10

2 HE WAS APPRECIATIVE & ENCOURAGING They were demoralized & discouraged but Nehemiah saw hope, vision & cooperation as the keys to success together 2:18

3 HE DEALT PROMPTLY WITH POTENTIAL ISSUES He identified 2 main areas 1 The people were discouraged through weariness & obstruction 4:10-16 Use of intimidation & threats can be tiring But to regroup on restoration & working together using the strengths of the people 2 The people were disillusioned through the greed & heartlessness of their rich neighbors 5:1-5 He listened to their complaints He rebuked & shamed the nobles 5:7,11,12,14 called for restitution

4 HE RESTORED THE AUTHORITY OF THE WORD OF GOD 8:1-8 He ordered the restoration of Feasts 8:14 reading of scripture 9:3-5 cleansed temple 13:4-9 holy vessels restored 13:9 tithes brought in 13:5 sabbath was enforced 13:123-25 separation 13:30 Talk about multi tasked **WOW**

5 HE WAS ORGANIZED 2:11-16 He made a detailed assessment of the situation He did the paperwork He organized each group with a task He practiced wise delegation 7:2 He gave everyone an opportunity to be involved

6 HE DEALT WITH OPPOSITION the insults, innuendo's, infiltration, intimidation & intrigue It required wise & resolute guidance to steer the ship as it were 4:9,16,20 This is spiritual leadership in action

SO THE WALL WAS FINISHED 6:15