

LEADERSHIP

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The concept of leadership saturates the pages of the Bible. God never carried out any plan without some form of leadership involved. The Bible also teaches that individuals must be submissive to their leaders whether they be the slave (Ephesians 6:5), children to their parents (Ephesians 6:1-2), wives to their husbands (Ephesians 5:22), citizens to their government (Romans: 13: 1ff), or Christians to their shepherds (Hebrews 13:17). Still, God, in a unique way, holds leaders accountable for those under them. Under the Old Testament, entire nations would go astray, and the prophets would give scathing rebukes to the leaders. Sometimes these leaders were not advocates of wickedness but did nothing to stop it. Other times the leaders were teaching the people in idolatry, lasciviousness, and extortion. There were even times that the people were wrong, the leaders wanted what was right, but were ignorant concerning God, his will, and how to lead.

Today's world is not so different from the ancient world in which all this transpired. The lessons are the same. God expects there to be leaders (Titus 1:5; Ephesians 6:1ff). God directs the leaders through His word and holds them responsible with their souls (Acts 20:28-32). The world is rapidly moving to reject the concept of authority, which is all the more reason to prepare leaders and strong leaders. Corruption is growing in every corner of the world and sincere individuals need to prepare NOW. Too often preparation to lead is an afterthought whereas the world is quite diligent in preparing disciples to lead in its ways.

It is easy to neglect the problem of leadership and say that the issue is "followership" (which is a real problem). However as long as leaders choose not to prepare themselves and stand up for God there will always be a problem of "followership." Every individual must be an example and thereby lead others, men should train themselves to lead as elders and fathers. Christians should prepare themselves to teach and teach others (2 Timothy 2:2). These are the proper avenues for resolving the "followership" problem. After doing God's will in all these areas, if some still will not follow, those leaders still deliver their own souls.

In all this confusion, the church has embarked on a mad scramble to find the right formula for "success" in all areas and especially leadership. Pop psychology, public relations, politics, good 'ol boyism, business sense, oriental philosophy, and everything else dominate all efforts at improving the situation. Meanwhile, the Bible sits by ignored or only nominally consulted. The book that contains all things that pertain to life and godliness is the ultimate standard concerning leadership (1 Peter 1:3). A simple plan to go back to the Bible would pave the way to peace in churches. Never an absence of problems, but the way to deal with them that pleases God and brings peace and joy to the faithful.~