

Biblical Leadership

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I. Introduction.

A. In the ministry there are two foundation stones: Jesus is the Son of God and the Bible is the supreme authority.

B. God is not looking for more creative people. God's problem is not more ideas. He is looking for obedient people to carry out His ideas.

C. The ministry is always short of leadership. There is room for more leadership.

II. Two dimensions of Biblical leadership. (1 Corinthians 4:1-4)

A. Principles.

1. First you are a servant of Christ.
2. Second you are a steward for the mission.
3. Third you are a shepherd for the people.

B. A servant of Christ.

1. Stewardship grows out of being a servant.
2. Everyone is a steward in some sphere—this applies to all.
3. One is a servant of Christ first, and doubting results because of statistics should not get in the way.
4. What being a servant frees one from.
 - a. One has to be a servant of Christ before a servant of men. This frees us from men. (1 Corinthians 9:19)
 - b. It is usually ourselves that we need to be freed from. Knowing that we are first a servant of Christ will free us.
 - c. Being a servant of Christ will free us from a fear of people. Our recourse is to be the Lord. (Isaiah 51:12-13)
 - d. Being a servant of Christ will free us from our enemies. (Isaiah 54:17)

C. A steward of a mission from God.

1. The mission statement is simple regardless of how much is involved. (Exodus 3:10, 31:4, Deuteronomy 3:28, 1 Chronicles 11:1, Nehemiah 2:17)

2. One should get his task from God Himself first hand. When it becomes clear he should write it down.
3. The steward must be found faithful. (1 Samuel, Acts 26)
4. The steward must be single-minded. He must stick to the job he is called to.
5. The steward must integrate his life to his calling.

D. A good conscience is the inner freedom you have against the accusing finger, but this does not make a person innocent. Yet it is the Lord who judges, so one can ultimately leave the burden with Him. (1 Corinthians 4:3-4)

Application questions.

1. What does being a servant of Christ free us from? Which one do you long to be freed from the most?

2. How does one go about discerning his call to the mission? What must one do afterwards?

3. What are some things that you need to confess for a clean conscience? Why is it that you can have confidence before the Lord if you have addressed it with Him? Spend some time in reflection and prayer.
