



Spiritual Qualities for Church Leaders

12 Lessons

Prepared by:
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Table of Contents

"Spiritual Qualities for Church Leaders"

LESSONS	TOPICS	PAGE
1 --	The Need for Good, Spiritual Leadership	1-4
2 --	One who has a Relationship with God and the Saved	5-8
3 --	One who Desires to Grow	9-12
4 --	One who Strives to be Mature	13-16
5 --	One who Strives to be Unselfish	17-20
6 --	One who Tries to be Trustworthy	21-24
7 --	One who Strives to be Loving	25-28
8 --	One who Strives to be Visionary	29-32
9 --	One who Strives to be Stable	33-36
10--	One who Strives to Have a Good Attitude & Spirit	37-40
11--	One who Strives to be Active and Working	41-43
12--	Church Leaders Need to be well-qualified	44-48

Lesson One

*"The Need for Good, Spiritual
Leadership in the Church"*

The road to good, spiritual leadership in the church probably begins in the home. God designed that the man be the leader in his home and He holds the man responsible for fulfilling the job (Eph. 5:23-25; Eph. 6:1-4). Thus, the home becomes an early training ground—not only for the man, but for those son or sons in the home as well. In this study we are going to center our thoughts on what special qualities does a man need to possess to be the best possible spiritual leader. This is a large assignment for such a small book.

In this lesson we want to look at the need for "proper" leadership in the church. Every home, institution, company or church has people who lead. But are they good leaders, quality leaders, dedicated and effective leaders—are they spiritual leaders? A church that is satisfied with just any kind of leadership will be given that kind of leadership. If they want better leadership, they will only have it when it is demanded by the members. People, unfortunately, follow poor or bad leadership as well as good, spiritual leadership. We want to emphasize the need for the best leadership possible.

Defining Leadership in General

The following are some quotations that are attempting to defined the concept of leadership:

1. *"Leadership is simply to have followers. One who does not have followers is not a leader!"*
2. *"The ability to influence others by our words and actions."*
3. *"The process of helping a group of people to plan and accomplish their goals with the minimum of time and effort."*
4. *"The ability to get people to follow—one that inspires others."*
5. *"Giving proper direction and motivation to others."*
6. *"Inspiring people to work together to achieve a desired objective."*
7. *"They are not drivers or commanders-in-chief, they are leaders."*
8. *"Willingness to invest one's life in guiding and encouraging people towards given goals or ideals or accomplishments."*
9. *"A leader is a person who is going somewhere—but not going alone. He takes others with him. His ability in setting up situations in which others are willing to follow him and happy to work with him is a precious skill called leadership. This skill is made up of many qualities."*

It is rather interesting to note that most businesses, social organizations, or governmental organizations, as well as the church, prefer to have certain "qualities" in the life of the one doing the leading. From a Biblical standpoint, this should be a prime consideration for defining "good" or "quality" leadership in the church. It could be expressed briefly in this way:

"A 'good' leader in the church is one who is qualified to lead by his knowledge of God's word, godly outlook and life, experienced in Christian living, and has as his model to follow the Lord Jesus Christ."

The Bible is full of examples, listings, and guidelines to indicate the kind of leadership He wants in the church. Our study will bring out many of these concepts or qualities.

Defining Spiritual Leadership

Leadership in the world and in the church may have some common ground upon which to build, but when the edifice is completed, the end results will be quite different in most instances. This is often where church leaders make their mistake and remain poor spiritual leaders by looking too much at leadership in the world and not seeing and being the spiritual leaders that God wants (1 Cor. 3:1-3). Our efforts in this series of lessons will be to look for those qualities that make for good spiritual leaders. We might also briefly define spiritual leadership as:

"The wisdom to know where God wants His people to go, and the ability to lead them there."

However, there are some specific concepts that need to be involved when trying to define the type of leadership that God wants in His church.

- 1. He must count the cost and be willing to pay the price (Lk. 14:25-35).*
- 2. He must have a love for the church and its mission (Matt. 6:33; John 14:15).*
- 3. He must be willing to sacrifice his time, efforts, talents and possessions to help the church to accomplish its mission (Mark 16:15; Rom. 12:1; Lk. 14:25-35).*
- 4. He must have a deep sense of responsibility to God and to others (Matt. 22:37-40).*
- 5. He must have a sense of urgency to carry out God's will, not only in his own life, but to encourage others also (Eph. 5:16; 2 Cor. 5:10-11).*
- 6. He must not expect his full reward for his work here in this life (1 Cor. 3:11-15; 2 Tim. 5:6-8).*

Such a person will allow his life to be so developed by God that he has an effective ability to lead people correctly.

Undesirable Leadership

Since the work of the Lord's church is so important and vital to the spiritual well-being of people, we should naturally want the very best leadership possible. The church should watch carefully not to appoint the following kinds of poor leaders:

- 1. Figurehead leader.** This is one in name only. He drifts with the current—goes with the crowd. He is a people pleaser. He does the following, not the leading. He often appears as a rubber stamp for public opinion because he desires to keep on the good side of people. He doesn't want criticism.

2. **A Drafted leader.** This is one who really didn't want the job, but was push into it. The kind of leading that he will do is when he is push out front and forced to do something.
3. **A Manipulating leader.** He has learned how to get people to do what he wants by manipulating them. They may follow his lead but later resent him for it. Usually, it is his way to "get his way!"
4. **An Authoritarian leader.** Such people are often dictatorial and push hard to get "their ideas" over even when most of the people do not want it. They made a big ado over their authority and threaten people who oppose them.
5. **A Worldly leader.** His primary interest is in getting what this world has to offer and is not really interest in developing his spiritual life with God and with God's people. His decisions, language, and his conduct reflect where his heart is set on.

The following poem helps to point out some very obvious facts about people:

**R
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G**

**You tell on yourself by friends you seek,
By the very manner in which you speak;
By the way you employ your leisure time,
By the use you make of dollar and dime!**

**You tell what you are by the things you wear,
By the spirit in which your burdens you bear;
By the kind of things at which you laugh,
By the records you play on the phonograph.**

**You tell what you are by the way you walk,
By the things of which you delight to talk;
By the manner in which you fear defeat,
By so simple a thing as how you eat.**

**By the book you choose from the well-filled shelf.
In these ways and more, you tell on yourself;
So there's really not a particle of sense
In an effort to keep up false pretense!**

Concluding Thoughts: A leader has a place to go and feels that the way is desirable enough that he wants to help others to go that same way (Matt. 7:13-14). He realizes he cannot force or make people go that way, but rather realizes that spiritual leadership can encourage and lead people into going that way. He doesn't have all the answers, but God's Word does—which he respects as his guide for life. A leader is one who leads others, but a spiritual leader is one who leads people in spiritual ways.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

True or False

- 1. It does not matter what kind of a leader one is, so long as he leads.
- 2. All secular leadership principles are wrong to use in the church.
- 3. Felt responsibility is a key factor in good leadership.
- 4. God ordained that there be good leadership in the church.
- 5. Some men take on leadership positions to purely satisfy their ego.
- 6. There are only a few leadership positions in the church.
- 7. There are various levels of leadership in the church.
- 8. A good leader tries to duplicate himself.
- 9. Training classes for leadership does not accomplish the job of supplying good, effective leaders in the church.
- 10. A leader is primarily a doer.

SELF-EVALUATION OF YOUR LEADERSHIP SKILLS

Yes or No

- 1. I have a negative attitude.
- 2. I have gained sufficient knowledge in my area of leadership that I can do an effective job.
- 3. I set goals for myself and help the church to set goals.
- 4. I like for things to stay like they are—no change.
- 5. I am lazy and indifferent towards my responsibilities given to me.
- 6. I work hard at communicating to others effectively.
- 7. I have a tendency to put things off.
- 8. I feel like a servant of others.
- 9. I have my priorities of commitment straight.
- 10. I participate in things which will improve my leadership abilities.

Lesson Two

*"One Who Has Come into a Relationship
With God and the Saved"*

Who are good leaders? What helps to make a good leader? What are basic qualities that are needed to make a person the kind of leader among men that God wants? The answers that we are seeking can be found in the Word of God that is able to make all men complete, mature, and equipped for every good work (2 Tim. 3:16-17). With this lesson we begin to study the basic qualities that God has given in His Word.

The Best Spiritual Leader

The person that should make the best spiritual leader should be a Christian—one who has formed a relationship with God and other saved people. It is obvious that at first he will not have the influence and impact that he will later (1 Tim. 3:6). Often, new Christians come across as self-righteous—wanted to tell everyone else that they need to change like he has done. While the thought is true, he doesn't have the maturity that can demand the respect of others. Much depends upon the attitude with which he approaches and talks with people about spiritual things.

Why do we say that Christians should be the best spiritual leaders?

Matt. 5:13-16 _____

1 Tim. 4:12 _____

1 Cor. 11:1 _____
Heb. 13:7 _____

The Process of Becoming a Christian

1. He has to be willing to hear and believe the Gospel! No one can have a relationship with God until he has opened his ears, eyes, and heart to hearing what God has to say to him.

Matt. 13:14-16 _____

John 6:44-45 _____

Only the "humble of heart" will be willing to listen to what God has to say. This statement is based on the following thoughts:

1. Jesus compared such a person to little children (Matt. 18:3).
2. He pronounced a blessing on those who were "poor in spirit" (Matt. 5:3).
3. James said we need to be slow to speak, but quick to hear (Jas. 1:19).

2. He has to recognize that he is lost and needs a Redeemer! Mankind becomes "lost" or finds himself under condemnation (not only by his own conscious—Rom. 2:14-15) but by the preaching of "Christ crucified!" (1 Cor. 2:2; Gal. 3:10). He has broken God's Law and the penalty is death (Rom. 6:23). He realizes that unless he turns to God for mercy, he will be separated from God for all eternity (2 Thess. 1:9). God wants the message of redemption through His Son to be preached to every person on earth (Matt. 28:18-20).

3. He has to be willing to let Jesus become the "Lord" of his life! He must not only be willing to listen, but be a doer of the Word (Jas. 1:22).

Luke 6:46 _____
 Acts 2:36 _____
 Rom. 10:9 _____
 Eph. 1:22-23 _____

4. He is one who has "obeyed the Gospel!" The basic message of the Gospel tells men about the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. He is called upon to humble himself and submit to the same concepts of a death to sin (Rom. 6:1-2), a burial in water (baptism) (Rom. 6:3-4), and a raising up from the water that depicts our resurrection to "newness of life" (Rom. 6:4-5). The writer of Romans depicts this process throughout the remainder of chapter six.

Mark 16:15-16 _____

 Acts 2:38 _____
 Acts 2:41 _____

Upon our obedience to the Gospel:

1. We are forgiven or have remission of sins (Acts 2:38).
2. We are saved (Mk. 16:16).
3. We are washed, sanctified, and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus (1 Cor. 6:11).
4. We become children of God (Gal. 3:26-27).
5. We become the adoptive children of God (Eph. 1:5).
6. We are Redeemed through the blood of Christ (Eph. 1:7).

This relationship is a gift from God and should never be taken for granted. It must be maintained at all cost—even to death itself (Rev. 2:10). It is a relationship that we grow and mature in as indicated by the following Scriptures:

Phil. 2:12 _____

Col. 2:6-7 _____

2 Pet. 1:10-11 _____

Col. 2:6-7 _____

2 Pet. 3:18 _____

The Apostle John shows us clearly that this relationship is maintained by the following things:

1 John 1:6-7 _____

1 John 1:8-9 _____

1 John 3:7 _____

Concluding Thoughts

Good, Spiritual leadership comes from one who has committed his life to following the Spirit of God through His Word (the Bible). He is one who "minds" the things of the Spirit, not the things of the world (Rom. 8:5-6). He has been made "blameless" by the Blood of Christ and he continues to maintain that "blamelessness" by an obedient and growing faith in God and in His Son. Such a person has begun his walk of righteousness that will enable him to become a great example to follow, as well as a great leader to follow. The church, as well as the "world," needs such examples to imitate!

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

True or False

- 1. The "best" spiritual leader should be a Christian!
- 2. New Christians should be put into leadership roles as soon as possible to keep the growing.
- 3. Humility is a necessary attitude in order to form a relationship with God.
- 4. A person can be a Christian without ever hearing the preaching of the Gospel.
- 5. A person does not need to know that he is "lost," but only to know that he needs God's forgiveness.
- 6. Obedience to the Gospel can only be done by those who are willing to humble themselves before God.
- 7. Relationship with God is a gift from God.
- 8. A person cannot stop being a child of God!
- 9. The Christian must be diligent to maintain his relationship with God.
- 10. Becoming a Christian does not necessarily make you a good, spiritual leader in the church.

SELF-EXAMINATION

Yes or No

- 1. I fully understood that I needed to believe in Jesus as the Son of God in order to have a relationship with God.
- 2. I also understood that I needed to repent (have a change of heart that leads to a change of life) in order to become a Christian.
- 3. I have been baptized into Christ so that I can be saved and added to His church and be in a relationship with God.
- 4. I realize that I can lose my relationship with God by going back and walking in sin (darkness).
- 5. To maintain this relationship I must walk in the light each day and be willing to confess my wrongs.

Lesson Three

*"One Who Desires to Grow
as a Christian"*

The "fact" of "growth" is all about us every way we turn! The plant kingdom, the animal kingdom, and the human kingdom all show growth—at least in a physical, tangible way. So, growth is nothing new to us as humans. And...we have seen the advantages and desirability of growth that helps to motivate us in areas where we can play a decided role. Obviously, this would primarily involve the "inner person" not the physical body. Once that man has the "spirit of life" placed within him and he begins breathing, he immediately begins the process of growth—both physically and internally. The growth internally is the real person that is in an outward shell called the human body (2 Cor. 5:1-5). There are several factors that we know of that affects the inner growth of a person—some things we can control and others we may not be able to control. What we can control in regards to our inner growth is what this lesson is all about—and probably all of these lessons!

The Command to Grow as a Christian

The very fact that God commands and expects His people to grow shows that we do have a part to play in our character as a person. It also shows that we are not just robots that are pre-determined by forces outside of our control.

1 Pet. 2:1-2 _____

2 Pet. 3:18 _____

Jesus pronounces a blessing on the person who hungers and thirst after righteousness—he will be a righteous person who practices righteousness (Matt. 5:6; 1 Jn. 2:29). His life will be changed by the renewing of his mind (Rom. 12:1-2).

To grow as a Christian demands certain things:

1. We must have a desire to grow!
2. We must be open to be taught! For the Christian, it requires teaching the Word of God. He is not satisfied just to maintain the status quo as a Christian. He realizes that he does not "know it all!" (Matt. 18:3-4).
3. We must put ourselves in the situation where we can learn and put such knowledge into practice (Jas. 1:22). This is what we call training a person (2 Tim. 2:2).
4. We must evaluate our growth. Physically, we measure our growth by what we outgrow, our increase in height, and possibly even our weight. Spiritually, we need to look into the mirror of God's Word and to measure ourselves (Jas. 1:23-25).

**Things that DO NOT Necessarily Indicate
Spiritual Development!**

1. Being a gifted person. We often think of "gifted" people as mature persons. While they may have developed their gift to a higher or greater ability, it is not necessarily an indication of inner spiritual growth of the person. This is clearly illustrated by the use of miraculous gifts in the early church at Corinth. They had all the miraculous gifts, but were acting very immaturely. Paul said they were "carnal"—they showed a lack of real spiritual maturity (1 Cor. 3:1-3)

2. Being appointed a leader in the church. It is important that leaders be qualified—showing sufficient spiritual maturity (1 Tim. 3:1-13; Tit. 1:5-9. etc.). When we ignore this and appoint men to lead who are immature, the church will have problems—just like at Corinth! (1 Cor. 1:10-13).

3. Being a Preacher of the Gospel. It is one thing to have a lot of "correct" head knowledge of the Scriptures, but quite another to let it affect our inner growth as a Christian. The Apostle spoke about certain preachers who preached Christ out of envy and strife (Phil. 1:15). We need to be sure that our spiritual growth is keeping pace with our head knowledge.

4. Piety in front of people. It is possible to do the right things that God commands of us, but with the wrong motives—showing poor spiritual development within. Jesus dealt with this problem in Matt. 6:1-5. He pointed out that they were doing what they did for the wrong reasons and thus showed poor inner growth of the person.

5. To be in the church a long time. This certainly is not a basis (necessarily) for determining the spiritual maturity of a person. The writer of Hebrews rebuked his readers for their lack of growth that should have been in their lives (Heb. 5:12).

Indication of Spiritual Development

1. What are some TERMS used to measure Spiritual Development?

- Matt. 5:48 _____
- Col. 2:7 _____
- 1 Cor. 15:58 _____
- Rev. 2:10 _____
- Eph. 4:13 _____

2. In what way does "growing out of things" illustrate Spiritual Development?

- Rom. 6:1-2, 6 _____
- _____
- Rom. 12:2 _____
- Eph. 4:22 _____
- 2 Cor. 6:17-18 _____

3. How is Spiritual Development indicated by how we act in special trying circumstances?

Phil. 2:12 _____
Gal. 6:4-5 _____
Jas. 1:5 _____
Jas. 1:26 _____

4. What does our outlook have to do with indicating Spiritual Development?

Matt. 16:24-25 _____
Phil. 2:2-3 _____
1 John 2:15-17 _____
Col. 3:1-3 _____
Luke 6:46 _____

5. What part does "fruit bearing" have to do in indicating Spiritual Development?

Gal. 5:22-23 _____
John 15:1-5 _____
2 Pet. 1:5-12 _____

Concluding Thoughts

The above thoughts are by no means all that the Scriptures have to say about our inner growth as a Christian. But grow....we must! Without growth, our soul and the souls of others can be in jeopardy. We need to revive, strengthen, and keep a strong desire for inner growth so that we can be blessed and be a blessing to others. The church needs all of the mature, spiritually-minded people it can develop in its midst.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

True or False

- ___ 1. We have no real control over our physical development.
- ___ 2. Neither do we have real control over our inner development.
- ___ 3. Inner growth is the real person which is housed in a physical body.
- ___ 4. God does not command His people to grow.
- ___ 5. Growth as a Christian requires putting aside sinful activities.
- ___ 6. The inner person grows whether the person desires it or not.
- ___ 7. To grow as a Christian demands that we must want to grow as such.
- ___ 8. Securing knowledge has very little to do with inner growth of a person.
- ___ 9. The "know it all" person has very little possibility of inner growth as a Christian.
- ___ 10. There is no point to evaluating our inner growth as a Christian.

SELF-EVALUATION OF YOUR DESIRE TO GROW

Yes or No

- ___ 1. I am constantly hungering and thirsting after righteousness.
- ___ 2. I am not satisfied with my inner growth at this point in my life.
- ___ 3. I can see things that I am "growing out of" in my daily activities.
- ___ 4. I can perceive that the growth that I have experienced is influencing others about me to want to grow as well.
- ___ 5. I am noticing that I can handle stress situations much better in my daily life.
- ___ 6. I can tell that my outlook towards others is much better.
- ___ 7. I have noticed that looking towards heaven as my "real" reward is what I am desiring most.
- ___ 8. I am trying to be a productive fruit-bearer in the kingdom of God.

Lesson Four

"One Who Strives to be a 'Mature' Christian"

We usually think of "Father Time" as being old! Sometimes the word "Mature" is also connected with being old. Maturity does require time, but it does not necessarily require that a person be ready for the grave in order to be mature. The sooner a person begins to do those things that will mature him as a Christian, the sooner he will become mature—and not necessarily old and ready for death. Unfortunately, some people can be old physically, but immature inside—they never seem to "grow up!" The Hebrew writer stated: *"For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food."*(5:12). He said that they were still "babes" in Christ and had not come of full age (maturity)(5:13-14). We, as Christian, not only need to have a strong desire to grow, but to grow to maturity. We believe strongly that this is a very basic spiritual quality of a good spiritual leader.

What is Maturity?

There are three English words that are used by translators of the Bible to translate the Greek word: **Τελειος**—"Perfect," "Mature," or "Complete." Often the context may require one or the other of these three terms. There is an obvious different between saying that God is perfect and that man is perfect. God's perfection is absolute, but I doubt that such could be said of man in the same sense. Yet, the Scriptures do talk about perfecting us, perfecting things in us, and becoming perfect. The following will illustrate:

- Matt. 5:48** _____
- Matt. 19:21** _____
- Eph. 4:13** _____
- Phil. 3:15** _____
- Col. 1:28** _____
- Col. 4:12** _____
- Jas. 1:4** _____
- Jas. 3:2** _____
- 2 Cor. 13:11** _____
- 1 Thess. 3:10** _____
- Heb. 13:21** _____
- 1 Pet. 5:10** _____

Unfortunately, when we talk about a Christian being perfect or complete—such would carry with it the idea of "he has arrived!" But we know that none of us have—so, how do we understand the Biblical use of this term? The same may be said of the word maturity—in a similar way. This word is probably the one that gives more leave way in understanding its usage. We usually think of "levels" of maturity such as: being more mature or less mature, or of being very mature.

These words when used with reference to men must be used in a relative way—being like God, but not being perfect in the absolute like God. The Apostle admonished God's people to perfection or maturity or completeness, but at the same time assured them that he had not "arrived!"—probably indicating in the absolute sense or possibly referring to the fact that he still could make more improvements in his life (Phil. 3:12-14).

What are some Indications of Maturity?

It should be obvious that God is the standard of perfection (Matt. 5:48); therefore, the more we are like God, the more mature we will be.

1. The man, Job, was considered perfect before God (Job 1:1, 8; 2:3; 8:20). The reasons are given as to why he was so viewed by God:

- a) He was blameless and upright;
- b) He feared God and turned away from evil;
- c) He held fast his integrity.

2. The Hebrew writer gives indications of maturity (Heb. 5:12-14; 6:11):

- a) Should be able to teach others (12).
- b) Able to take on solid food (12, 14).
- c) Skillful in his use of the Word of God (13).
- d) Able to discern both good and evil (14).
- e) Have a full assurance of hope (6:11).

3. The Ephesian Letter gives indications also (Eph. 4:11-16):

- a) Willingness to be equipped to serve and edify the body of Christ (12).
- b) Help the church to be unified (13).
- c) Come up to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (13).
- d) Not easily misled by false teachers (14).
- e) Able to speak the truth in love (15).
- f) Grown to the point where one shares his part of the work to help the body edify itself in love (16).

4. James emphasized this same concept:

- a) Patience in testing (1:3).
- b) Endurance brings perfection or completeness (1:4, 12).
- c) One who capable of correctly applying the Word of God to his life (1:22).
- d) Complete control of one's tongue (3:2)

5. Jesus probably summed it up in Matt. 22:36-40:

- a) One who loves God with all his heart, soul, and mind.
- b) One who loves his neighbor as himself.
- c) This teaching is found also in: **Rom. 13:8-10; 1 John 3:10-19.**

Could you picture the following being looked upon as mature?

1. Just a "pew sitter," and not involved (Rev. 3:15).
2. One who has been saved by Jesus and has it made (1 Pet. 1:5).
3. One who is satisfied just being a "babe" in Christ (Heb. 5:12)
4. One who puts emphasis on doing the "easier" things, and balks at the "harder" things (Matt. 23:23).
5. One who is so involved in the cares of the world, chasing after the deceitful riches, and the pleasures of this life that he is not fruitful before God (Matt. 13:22; Luke 8:14).
6. One who easily bored with listening to or reading the Word of God (1 Pet. 2:2; Matt. 5:6).
7. One who is satisfied with the status quo (2 Cor. 13:5).

God has Designed Things to help us Mature

God has ordained or designed things that can help us not only to grow, but to become mature, complete, or perfected in our life as a Christian. The following are some obvious things:

- 1 Pet. 2:2** _____
- 2 Tim. 3:16-17** _____
- Heb. 10:24-25** _____
- 1 Cor. 11:17, 29-30** _____
- 1 Cor. 14:26** _____
- Jas. 5:13, 16** _____
- 1 Tim. 4:7** _____
- 1 Tim. 6:5-8** _____
- Tit. 3:8** _____
- Heb. 12:5-13** _____
- 1 Cor. 15:33** _____

Concluding Thoughts

To desire to grow and to actually do some growing as a Christian is very desirable; but, to go on to perfection is a challenge of a lifetime. Our goal should not be just to grow a little bit, but to grow as "tall" as we can be as a Christian! Only death, itself, can end our growth to maturity. The greater the growth, the greater the maturity, the greater will be our ability to be used by God to his glory. (2 Tim. 2:20-21).

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

True or False

- ___ 1. Age and Maturity go hand-in-hand.
- ___ 2. A person can be mature without being old.
- ___ 3. To come of full age and maturity are the same thing.
- ___ 4. A man can be a good, spiritual leader in the church without being mature.
- ___ 5. Striving to be mature and being mature are two different things.
- ___ 6. James said that a Christian can be perfect.
- ___ 7. The command to become perfect is not an option for the Christian.
- ___ 8. There are definite indications of maturity by which we can measure ourselves.
- ___ 9. God has designed several things that will help us mature in Christ.
- ___ 10. Maturity can be measured by what kind of fruit we bear as a Christian.

SELF-EVALUATION OF MATURITY

Yes or No

- ___ 1. I am still hungering for the Word of Righteousness even after being in the church for years.
- ___ 2. I am able and in the process of teaching others the Word of God.
- ___ 3. I have successfully endured trials in my life that has strengthened my faith.
- ___ 4. I know that God's discipline is for my well-being as a Christian.
- ___ 5. I am constantly striving to help unify the church where I attend.
- ___ 6. I am trying to carry my share of the work of the church.
- ___ 7. I don't need to be re-taught the first principles of the Gospel.
- ___ 8. My life is filled with good works that God wants me to do.
- ___ 9. My prime associations are with those who help me to be a stronger and steadfast Christian.

Lesson Five

*"One Who Strives to be
an Unselfish Christian"*

Stealing could be considered as one of the worst forms of selfishness! It is taking that which belongs to another and generally enjoying and using it for ourselves without consideration of the harm or hurt we do to another. Stealing is carnality in one of its worst forms. The Christian is commanded to no longer steal, but labor with his own hands what is good. But, it doesn't stop there, he adds something else that deals directly with selfishness: *"...that he may have something to give him who has need!"* (Eph. 4:28).

One of the outstanding characteristics of Christianity is "unselfishness!" It is exemplified by God in the giving of His Son to die for our deliverance from the curse of death (John 3:16). It was exemplified by Jesus in His willingness to go to the cross for our redemption (He paid the price for our deliverance) (Phil. 2:5-8; 2 Cor. 5:18-21; Matt. 26:39). The "first" Christians (Acts 11:26) seem to have caught this unselfish spirit as well when they began helping their fellow-Christians who were obviously in desperate need of help (Acts 2:44-46; 4:32). Many of these new converts to Christ may have been those who had traveled a great distance to come to the city of Jerusalem to be at the feast days. Their money may have run out by their staying longer. Whatever the reason, they unselfishly gave to help those who had need.

Contrast in Leaderships

Carnal versus Unselfish Spiritual Leaders:

- 1. A carnal leader will be envious and cause strife and division (1 Cor. 3:3); while the unselfish spiritual leader will help to build up and unify the group (Eph. 4:12-13).**
- 2. A carnal leader wants to be the preeminent one and rule the church the way he wants things to be (3 John 9-10); while the unselfish spiritual leader has no desire to lord it over others, but desires to be a good example to others (1 Pet. 5:3).**
- 3. A carnal leader wants to teach the wisdom of men rather than the wisdom of God (1 Cor. 2:5-6); while the unselfish spiritual leader will set his mind on and teach the things of the Spirit (Rom. 8:5-6).**
- 4. A carnal leader is puffed up with pride (1 Tim. 3:6); while the unselfish spiritual leader is an example to others in word, conduct, love, spirit, faith, and in purity (1 Tim. 4:12).**
- 5. A carnal leader is one that does not know how to rule his own house (1 Tim. 3:5); while the unselfish spiritual leader rules his house well and is respected by his mate and children (1 Tim. 3:4).**
- 6. A carnal leader is one that wants the applause of men (Matt. 23:5-7); while the unselfish spiritual leader wants the glory to go to God (1 Cor. 10:31).**

This list could continue, but hopefully enough has been given to emphasize the difference between these two kinds of leaders.

Some times it is helpful to turn to synonyms to get a better view of what is meant by selfishness. The following are given as such:

1. Self-willed (Tit. 1:7; 2 Pet. 2:20).
2. Self-centered (Luke 12:16-21---"I," "I," etc.).
3. Not generous (Prov. 11:24-25).
4. Inconsiderate—not thoughtful of others—rude (1 Cor. 13:5).
5. Egotistic (Prov. 16:28).
6. Self-Interest (Phil. 2:4).

Unselfishness

Some of the strongest teachings that Jesus gave were in this area of unselfishness. What are some of the aspects of unselfishness that Jesus brings out in the following passages?

Matt. 16:24 _____

Matt. 16:25 _____

Luke 14:26 _____

Luke 14:33 _____

Also, a strong emphasis is given in other Scriptures that emphasize the need to be unselfish—evaluate the following:

Matt. 5:42-45 _____

Matt. 6:12 _____

Rom. 12:10 _____

Rom. 12:13 _____

Rom. 12:14 _____

Rom. 12:15 _____

Rom. 12:19-20 _____

Gal. 6:2 _____

Eph. 5:25, 28 _____

Eph. 5:24, 33 _____

Phil. 4:10, 14, 18 _____

1 Pet. 2:20 _____

1 Cor. 6:7 _____

Rom. 16:3-4 _____

Titus 1:8 _____

Titus 3:8 _____

etc.

Many Scriptures could also be given that help to show what it means to be selfish. Evaluate the following:

- Matt. 6:1-4** _____
- Matt. 6:19-20** _____
- Rom. 16:17-18** _____
- Phil. 1:16** _____
- Phil. 2:3** _____
- Phil. 3:21** _____
- Col. 3:5** _____
- 2 Tim. 3:2** _____
- Jas. 3:14-16** _____
- 3 John 9-10** _____

The Gospel of Luke records two outstanding examples of selfishness that should serve as a strong warning against such:

- Luke 12:16-21** _____

- Luke 16:19-31** _____

Concluding Thoughts

The Wise man observed: *"The Way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but he who heeds counsel is wise."* (Prov. 12:15). Also, *"All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the spirits."* (Prov. 16:2). One of the big problems of a selfish person is that he does not see himself as selfish—he justifies his actions in his own eyes. The same, unfortunately, seems to be true of carnal, selfish leaders in the church—they refuse to see their true self. To counteract the influence of the selfish, it requires strong examples of unselfishness. The church needs all of the unselfish spiritual leaders that it can get!

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

True or False

- ___ 1. Stealing is not necessarily selfishness.
- ___ 2. The Christian is commanded to work for his own living.
- ___ 3. One reason for working is to be unselfish with what we receive from work.
- ___ 4. Unselfishness is an outstanding characteristic of Christianity.
- ___ 5. Both God, the Father, and Jesus have given us example of great unselfishness.
- ___ 6. The early church was immature and did not see the need of unselfishness.
- ___ 7. A carnal leader is not an unselfish spiritual leader.
- ___ 8. A carnal leader is more enamored with the wisdom of men than the wisdom of God.
- ___ 9. A self-willed person is an unselfish person.
- ___ 10. Jesus said that a person had to give up self or die to self in order to be his follower.

SELF-EVALUATION OF UNSELFISHNESS

Yes or No

- ___ 1. I have given up doing my will and have decided to follow the Will of God in my life.
- ___ 2. I try to unselfishly show my concern for others by helping them in any way that I can.
- ___ 3. I open my home up to have people in so that I can share what God has blessed me with.
- ___ 4. I give liberally of my prosperity on the Lord's Day.
- ___ 5. I am willing to put others' interest before my own when needed.
- ___ 6. I carefully evaluate my plans for the future and my savings for the future to be sure I am not doing like the "Rich Farmer" in Luke 12 or the "Rich Man" in Luke 16.
- ___ 7. I am willing to help bear the burdens that others have.
- ___ 8. I try every day not to be rude and inconsiderate of others about me.
- ___ 9. I try not to justified my actions when others show a concern for me to change my ways.

Lesson Six

"One Who Tries to be a Trustworthy Christian"

"Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor." (Rom. 13:7). The Apostle Peter stated: *"Honor all people."* (1 Pet. 2:17). It is right to show honor and respect to those especially who are trying to serve us for our good. Men have given special gifts to those whom they have chosen to honor. In writing to the Thessalonian Christians, Paul admonishes them to give recognition to those who were laboring among them and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake (1 Thess. 5:12-13). Children are to show respect or give honor to their parents (Eph. 6:1-3) and show it by being obedient to them. Slaves were admonished to show respect to their masters (Eph. 6:5-8), but masters were also to respect their slaves (Eph. 6:9). Mutual respect for one another is a very desirable thing and a benefit to those who show it. And even giving special praise, recognition, or honor to one who served well is exemplified in Scripture. See the following:

2 Cor. 8:18-21

- a) "Praised throughout all the churches."
- b) "Chosen by churches to travel with Paul and with their special gifts to the poor saints."
- c) They provided things honorable in the sight of the Lord and Men.

Hebrews 11

- a) A long list is given of "heroes" of the faith—those who were faithful to God and to others.
- b) They showed their trustworthiness to be praised by God by their obedience in the midst of persecution, in particular.
- c) God's great praise of them was: *"Of whom the world was not worthy...."* (11:38). The world was not deserving of having them in their midst, and did not appreciate them, but they were there to bless the world by their trustworthy lives!

What Does it Mean to be Trustworthy?

The Holy Spirit used the Apostle Paul's life to help us see a man of great integrity. Look how his life is described in **2 Cor. 6:3-11**:

- 1. He desired to give no offense in anything.**
- 2. His life as a minister of the Gospel commended him to all:**
 - a) Patience in all kinds of problem situations and persecutions;
 - b) By his purity of life;
 - c) By his knowledge, kindness, and sincere love;
 - d) By his sincere love for them;
 - e) By his upholding God's truth in all situations;
 - f) By patiently enduring false accusations;
 - g) By his openness of heart towards them.

Synonyms can be helpful in trying to grasp what it means to be trustworthy. The following can illustrate:

1. He will be an honest person. He will speak truth and only truth (Eph. 4:25).
2. His promises can be counted on (2 Cor. 9:5).
3. He lives an honorable life before others (1 Pet. 2:12).
4. He is faithful to his commitment (Rev. 2:10).
5. He is upright in his life...living a righteous life (1 Jn. 2:29).
6. He is perceived as a sincere person who is striving to live a trustworthy life (Rom. 12:9; Phil. 1:16; 2 Cor. 1:12).
7. He lives a life of integrity (Tit. 2:7).

A Trustworthy Person also Trusts Others

If we want to be looked upon as trustworthy, we need to conduct ourselves in such a way that we are worthy of trust! But there is another side of this picture that may be worth looking into. If I want people to put trust in me, don't I also need to put trust in others?

1. **We should put trust in God—first and foremost!** Obviously, we should not have trouble with putting trust in God because He is absolutely trustworthy! He is faithful to His Word and His Promises (Rev. 1:4-5). However, we are tempted to doubt Him and His promises when we do not see things working out like we think they should—so, we began to doubt (Jas. 1:5-8). If we do not deal properly with this doubt, we will drift away from God (Heb. 3:12).
2. **We should also put trust in others (1 Cor. 13:7).** But this is not so easy. People disappoint us, lie to us, and often are not concerned about carrying out their promises. How can we put trust in such people? Possibly, one of the best ways to help such people is to sincerely say to them that you know that they haven't been trustworthy in the past, but you want to trust them and state that you believe they can become trustworthy. The greatest example of this concept is God, Himself. We obviously haven't been the "picture" of trustworthiness, but He still sent His Son to die for us and believed that many of us would prove that His trust was not misspent on us! Are you among that number? The Apostle's confidence in Philemon is clearly expressed in the letter he sent to Him making a request of him (Philemon 21). How wonderful it is to be trustworthy and for people to put their trust or confidence in us as well.
3. **We should also trust in ourselves.** God believes in us—that we can live a successful Christian life. Jesus died to show that He believes in us. He has even gone to heaven to prepare a place for us—that is how sure He is of our faithfulness to the end. If God trust in us, shouldn't we trust in ourselves? Shouldn't we be busy living a life worthy of God's trust—being dependable, faithful, responsible, true to our word, and blameless? A word of caution needs to be stated at this point. We are not talking about a man trusting in his good life to earn or merit the reward of Heaven. He does not trust in his own ideas, but in God and His promises (Prov. 3:5; 1 Tim. 4:10; 6:9-10, 17; 2 Tim. 1:12).

Building Trustworthiness in Others

We all want to be trusted and to be trustworthy! Then, how do we build this in ourselves and in others? What are some obvious things that will cause others to trust in me and my promises? And how do we express my confidence in others' trustworthiness? The following thought should be helpful:

- 1. Show personal integrity to others.** No one lives perfectly and no one expects perfection! But we do want to see people striving to be trustworthy. To expect perfection of leaders is not only foolishness, but such will bring on a very unstable relationship with leadership. People need to perceive that integrity is a much desired thing in my life and I show this by a continual willingness to admit wrongs, as well as, to forgive others of wrongs (Eph. 4:32). The Apostle was trying to help the Corinthian Christians to see that he was striving to be trustworthy when he said: "***But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.***" (2 Cor. 4:2). He also pointed out that he had spoken openly to them and that his heart was wide open to them as well (2 Cor. 6:11).
- 2. I need to show kindness and consideration of others.** Instead of writing people off as not being trustworthy, we need to show our love and concern for them even though they may not deserve it—like God did to us (John 3:16). We can help others build trustworthiness in their lives though our willingness to love them in spite of what they have done in the past. This is the reason why Jesus said: "***And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.***" (Jn. 12:32). What is the drawing power of the cross of Christ? Is it not the demonstrating of God's concern for His creatures? Is it not that He believes we can change our lives for the better and be a trustworthy people? Is it not that He showed how much He valued us by sending His Son to die in our stead?

Concluding Thoughts

Our study is about spiritual qualities for church leaders. Do you want them to be trustworthy people? Then, help them to believe in themselves that they can be such. Help them by reassuring them of your confidence in them and their ability to lead God's people in righteousness and trustworthiness. Show my word and action that you believe in them and what they are striving to do. Leaders need your trust, just like you want them to trust in you. Leaders and followers can be a great blessing to one another as they express this confidence in one another.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

True or False

- 1. It is wrong to honor people, because it may go to their heads and not continue doing what they should.
- 2. The Word of God commands us to give or show honor not only to "leaders" but to one another as well.
- 3. Even slaves and masters were to show honor to one another.

- 4. We do not know the name of the person whom Paul said was "praised throughout all the churches."
- 5. The names listed in Hebrews eleven shows that God believed that these people were praise worthy or trust worthy.
- 6. A trustworthy person is one who never goes back on his word.

- 7. Trustworthiness has to be exemplified in our lives before people will trust in us.

- 8. A trustworthy person will also trust in others.

- 9. We also should trust in ourselves, but in the sense that we can be trustworthy with God's forgiveness and help.
- 10. Openness of heart is a factor in helping to show one's trustworthiness and their trust in others as well.

SELF-EVALUATION OF TRUSTWORTHINESS

Yes or No

- 1. My word is my bond—what I say is trustworthy.
- 2. My life is sincere before God and man.
- 3. I strive to show my concern for others and my trust in them and their ability to do what is right.
- 4. I strive to live a life that is blameless.

- 5. I strive to only speak the truth to people.

- 6. I strive to be dependable in whatever I have accepted to do.

- 7. I am striving each day to continue "full" trust in God and His promises.

- 8. I know that I can make it to heaven with the help of God and my brethren.

- 9. God has shown clearly how much He values us.

Lesson Seven

*"One Who Strives to be a
Loving Christian"*

Can you imagine a Christian wanting to follow a leader who hates others? While you and I might find that hard to imagine, there are people who do follow "hate mongers!" One of the obvious spiritual qualities that church leaders should manifest is his effort to not only love all men (even his enemies), but also that he is a lover of that which is good (Tit. 1:8; 1 Pet. 2:17; Matt. 5:43-44). This is talking about the kind of love that God has extended towards all men in the giving of His Son (Jn. 3:16). The Greeks had several different words for love that help to clarify the concept of the kind of love they were speaking about.

1. There was love of family;
2. There was friendship, companionship, or affection for some people that is natural;
3. There is also the love of God that is not necessarily expressed by our emotions, but by our will—showing that we desire the good for others. This would especially be true of loving our enemies.

It is natural to expect love or affection for family members, but sometimes it is not easy because of actions or lack of actions that tend to alienate one from another. Yet, there is something that draws us to one another because we are of the same family.

Friendship, companionship, or brotherly affections (Philia) for others comes naturally. It is something that you cannot command, but it happens. The only passage that uses the Greek word for this that occurs as a command is found in Titus 2:4—*"that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children."* I don't have an answer for why this is an exception to the rule. All other usages seem to recognize it as a natural thing.

The Greek word that can be commanded is Agape (Agapao). It is continually commanded by God. This is the word that we will be looking at in this study.

The Importance of Agape Love

There are several passages that show clearly how important this concept of love really is. The following will help to illustrate this:

- 1. If one does not love his brother, he is a child of the devil—not a child of God!** (1 John 3:10).
- 2. We know that we have passed from death to life because we love the brethren!** (1 John 3:14).
- 3. Those who show this love show that they are of the truth!** (1 John 3:19).

4. We show that we are either born of God or not by whether we show our love! (1 John 4:7-8).
5. If we show this love, then God abides in us! (1 John 4:12).
6. This love is a more excellent way than exercising miraculous gifts! (1 Cor. 12:31).
7. It does not matter how great a speaker I might be, if I do not speak in love, I am compared to a sounding brass or a clanging cymbal! (1 Cor. 13:1).
8. It does not matter how great the miraculous gifts were that the early Christians had, if they did not exercise them in love, they were said to be nothing! (1 Cor. 13:2).
9. It does not matter if I give all I have to feed the poor and even give my body to be burned, if I do not have love, it profits me nothing! (1 Cor. 13:3).
10. Faith is great, hope is greatly needed, but love is the greater of these three! (1 Cor. 13:13)

The Actions of Agape Love

(1 Corinthians 13:4-8)

1. Love suffers long (is patient or slow to lose patience).
2. Love is kind (it looks for a way to be constructive).
3. Love does not envy (it is not jealous of others).
4. Love does not parade itself nor is it puffed up (Does not brag and is not arrogant—it is not anxious to impress others—it does not cherish inflated ideas of its own importance).
5. Love does not behave rudely (It does not act unbecomingly—it does not act unmannerly).
6. Love does not seek its own (It does not insist on its own way or rights).
7. Love is not provoked (It bears no malice—It is not touchy—not quick to take offense).
8. Love thinks on evil (it does not reckon up her wrongs—it does not take into account a wrong suffered).
9. Love does not rejoice in iniquity (In unrighteousness—Takes no pleasure in witnessing wrong doing—never glad when others do or go wrong).
10. Love rejoices in the truth (it rejoices with the truth—rejoices in the victory of truth—always glad when truth prevails).
11. Love bears all things (it can overlook faults—it bears up under any thing—always slow to expose).
12. Love believes all things (it has unquenchable faith—it exercises faith in every thing—it is always eager to believe the best).
13. Love hopes all things (always hopeful under all circumstances).
14. Love endures all things (ever patient—has power to endure everything).
15. Love never fails (it will never come to an end).

Concluding Thoughts

In this lesson we are looking at a church leader who is striving to be a loving Christian. He is obviously not all talk ("*I love you*"), but it is in word as well as in deed. (1 John 3:18). The behavior of this person toward others leaves no room for doubt about his love (Rom. 9-10). His respect for young and old, as well as those in positions of authority, is evident to all (Rom. 13:7; 1 Tim. 5:1-3; 1 Pet. 5:5). His efforts at striving to be a loving Christian will draw people who will be willing to follow his leadership. Such a leader will obviously realize that he is a servant, not a master or lord, to others (Matt. 20:25-28; 23:10-12).

It needs to be pointed out, however, that this love is not an indulgent love, but a concerned love that desires the best for a person—even if it means stern discipline to get him or her to repent and turn back to the Lord (Matt. 18:15-17; 1 Cor. 5:9-13; 2 Thess. 3:12-15). God makes this clear in the Hebrew Letter (12:5-7). If God disciplines us for our good; then, it is right for us to do the same to our brethren if we love them. The wise man said it clearly to parents in this regard: "***He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly.***" (Prov. 13:24). A loving leader is strong, but gentle, loving, caring. He wants people to go to heaven, not the other place!

The example of a loving Christian leader in the church becomes one to emulate—as the Apostle Paul admonished Timothy (1 Tim. 4:12).

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

True or False

- 1. It is easier to follow a leader that hates than one who loves.
- 2. Godly love is expressed from our emotions, not our mind.
- 3. Friendship, Companionship, or brotherly affection is not commanded, but assumed on the part of children of God.
- 4. If we claim to be a Christian but do not have agape love, we are said to be a child of the devil.
- 5. One who has been born of God will definitely love their brethren.
- 6. Having this love is a way of knowing that we have become children of God.
- 7. Exercising agape love is certain superior to having miraculous gifts (like in the early church).
- 8. Love does not keep a record of wrongs that a person does to us.
- 9. Love is always eager to believe the best of others.
- 10. A leader who is a loving Christian is easy to emulate.

SELF-EXAMINATION OF A LOVING CHRISTIAN

Yes or No

- 1. I often express my love and concern for God's people publicly and privately as a Christian.
- 2. I look for opportunities to show my love to God's people.
- 3. I have resolved to be a loving Christian to the very best of my ability.
- 4. Having a Godly love is more important to me than anything else.
- 5. I am trying to be patience and longsuffering with others each day.
- 6. I try not to be envious of others who have greater ability than I do.
- 7. I do not have any problem with inflated ideas of my own importance.
- 8. I take no pleasure in wrong being done to another person.
- 9. I am trying to set the best example that I can before others.

Lesson Eight

*"One Who Strives to be a
Visionary Leader*

In the game of hockey, it is important to look to the goal in order to score. Unless the putt goes into the goal, all efforts are expended without accomplishing what should be done. Players are encouraged to envision taking the putt down the floor and hitting it just right to put it into the goal area. We believe that a Christian in the "game" of life needs to have his eye set on his goal and strive hard to make it there. Paul encouraged the Colossians to: *"If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth."* (Col. 3:1-2). He also stated to the Philippians: *"Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."* (Phil. 3:13-14).

Spiritual Leaders Have Good Eyesight!

What do you see? How clear do you see? Peter talked about having bad eyesight in 2 Pet. 1:9. He encouraged Christians to get their eyesight cleared up so they could see clearly what they needed to do. If they didn't, they would not be able to enter into that eternal kingdom (1:11). Jesus stressed the importance of good eyesight in several ways:

Matt. 6:22-23 _____

Matt. 7:4-5 _____

Matt. 13:15 _____

People who close their eyes to God and His instruction do so to their own destruction!

Matt. 20:33 _____

Mk. 8:18 _____

Lk. 10:23 _____

The purpose of God's instructions is to straighten out our eyesight!

Acts 16:18 _____

Eph. 1:18 _____

Who is a Visionary Leader?

The term "visionary" identifies not only with what we can see with our eyes physically, but with what we can see spiritually. And it also identifies with one, who by faith, can see into the future as well. We do not mean that he can foretell the future, but he tries to envision what can be accomplished in the future. We believe that the following things can help to identify a visionary leader in the church.

1. He is one who is willing to, first of all, honestly see himself. Jesus rebuked the person that would not look at himself and see his true condition. He called him a hypocrite!

Matt. 7:1-5 _____

The Apostle Paul's admonition to the elders at Ephesus was first of all to take heed to themselves!

Acts 20:28 _____

Take a good look—see yourself for what you are. You are not perfect, you can make mistakes, you need to be humble, you need to confess wrongs when they are committed, you need the blood of Christ and His forgiveness just like everyone else. However, to be appointed as an elder, such a person needs to be blameless! (1 Tim. 3:2). How is this possible? This term does not require perfection, but it does require that he be a person with whom no fault can be found—that is, he gives no grounds for accusation. It is advocating the idea of living peaceably with all men (Rom. 12:18). He has a good testimony of those in the church, as well as, those outside the church (1 Tim. 3:7)

2. He is one who, secondly, takes heed to the "flock of God!" (Acts 20:28). He is like a Shepherd that is gravely concerned for his sheep. He does not want them scattered all over everywhere, but stay together as a group so he can see after them better. The same needs to be said of a spiritual leader in the church—he is gravely concerned for the members. He shows this concerned by the following:

Matt. 5:9 _____

Eph. 4:1-6 _____

He is committed to the unity of God's people. He knows the dangers of false teachings that can confuse God's people, cause dissension, and lead them away from God (Matt. 7:15). He is therefore committed to seeing that only the truth of God is taught that helps to make God's people the light of the world (Matt. 5:16). For some reason, it seems that it is far easier to wreck or tear down a building than it is to build one. He is a leader who builds rather than to tear down.

1 Cor. 14:26 _____

3. He is one whose outlook is optimism, rather than pessimism! A leader is called upon to deal with problems—to help to solve or dissolve them! Where there are people, there are always problems! His outlook must be—that problems are challenges to greater heights, not reasons to get discouraged and quit. We don't believe that the Apostle Paul had any fewer problems to deal with than the other Apostles—and possibly had more. His attitude toward such is stated in the following Scripture:

Phil. 3:7-15 _____

People need to have hope, not despair, optimism and not pessimism. A visionary leader is able to honestly and clearly see how things are in the present, but also can envision the future possibilities that give reasons for hope (Rom. 8:24).

Rom. 8:28 _____

4. He is one who sees heaven as the ultimate goal towards which we all strive! The danger to the Christian is that he will lose sight of that final goal of life. God has promised us heaven (John 14:1-4); so, we should keep our eyes on going there above all else. We need to envision it—go to the Scriptures and see God's description of it. A spiritual leader must be adept in helping to keep this imagery continually before God's people. The Apostle Paul clearly did this for himself and for others.

2 Tim. 4:7-8 _____

Concluding Thoughts

To have a clear vision for the future depends upon having solid evidence for such vision. A visionary is not a charlatan, nor a con man, but firmly believes in and has good evidences for the vision that he is portraying before those he would lead. The Scriptures furnish us with all the evidences that we need to make our vision of heaven sure and steadfast. So, in the words of inspiration: *"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable,, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."* (1 Cor. 15:58).

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

True or False

- ___ 1. Vision is important because it gives direction for our activities in life.
- ___ 2. The Apostle stated that it was important to forget the past, if we wanted to be able to reach our future.
- ___ 3. Spiritual leaders have good eyesight.
- ___ 4. Peter talked about people who were short-sighted and blind.
- ___ 5. Jesus showed how "leaders" could be hypocrites by trying to help others when they have much greater problems they are not dealing with in their own life.
- ___ 6. It is possible to have eyes that can see, but they do not see!
- ___ 7. The purpose of God's Word is to give sight to our eyes.
- ___ 8. A visionary leader has to be willing to honestly see himself first before leading others.
- ___ 9. A spiritual leader doesn't have to be perfect, but he does have to be blameless.
- ___ 10. A visionary leader is one who has a vision for the future to sell to people.

SELF-EXAMINATION OF A VISIONARY LEADER

Yes or No

- ___ 1. I am thoroughly convinced that God's promise of Heaven is sure and steadfast.
- ___ 2. I fully realize the grave danger of misleading people and strive very hard to teach only that which is revealed in the Scriptures.
- ___ 3. I strive to right all wrongs in regards to other people about me, deal with all sins that I commit, and to have a clear conscience in all things.
- ___ 4. I strive to so live that I have a good testimony from people who know me.
- ___ 5. I know that unity among God's people is vital and I strive promote this oneness in any way possible.
- ___ 6. I am constantly striving to keep my outlook positive and optimistic so that I can be an encouragement to others who face a lot of challenges.
- ___ 7. I take time to remind myself, as well as God's people, of our ultimate goal of heaven and the importance of diligently striving to get there.
- ___ 8. I spend time to try to envision ways to help God's people to get to heaven.
- ___ 9. I have goals set before me in order to grow unto maturity in Christ.

Lesson Nine

*"One Who Strives to be a
Stable Christian"*

Have you heard the expression: *"He is like a rock in a storm!"* When the storms of life come crashing down upon us, we need to be like a rock—strong, stable, steadfast, and unmovable! Jesus said a wise man builds his house upon a foundation of rock that will stand the test, not only of time, but of storms as well (Matt. 7:24-25). Jesus also stated that He would build His church on a rock foundation (Matt. 16:18). Jesus is the foundation upon which the church would be built that is dependable (1 Cor. 3:10-12). But Jesus is a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense to those who do not believe in Him and obey Him (1 Pet. 2:6-8). From the above thoughts, it should be evident that one of the important spiritual qualities needed in a leader in the church is stability! An unstable leader cannot lead in the right direction, but leaves an example of being unstable and undependable. In this lesson, we would like to look briefly at some things that help to identify a stable Christian.

He is a Person of Conviction

He is full assured and continues to study and grow to keep these convictions strong (2 Pet. 3:18). It is to be like the Apostles when they were threatened and warned not to teach any more in the name of Jesus—they said: *"We ought to obey God rather than men."* It is to be fully assured of what we believe and why we believed it!

1 John 2:3-6 _____

1 John 5:13 _____

1 Pet. 3:15 _____

Such a person will not be easily moved away from the truth.

Eph. 4:14 _____

Col. 2:6-8 _____

Such a person is like a rock that others can look to and depend upon! Because of his strong conviction, he sets an example of steadfastness that encourages others to look to him for help in their time of trouble. Such a leader can help rekindle people's hopes, and as well can help to strengthen their resolve to Continue faithful to death!

Heb. 3:12-14 _____

Rev. 2:10 _____

Such a person knows the Lord, knows His Word, and is able to encourage effectively with the Word (2 Tim. 4:1-4).

He is a Person of Discipline

A stable Christian sets a good example before others because he is consistent in his life (1 Tim. 4:12). He is not wishy-washy! He is not easily misled (Eph. 4:14). The following passages emphasize the control that he has in his life:

1 Tim. 3:2 _____

1 Tim. 3:3 _____

Tit. 1:7 _____

Tit. 1:8 _____

Notice what the Apostle said about how to compete in the race of life!

1 Cor. 9:25-27 _____

A disciplined person is one who is established in the faith and abounds in it (Col. 2:7). He is grounded and steadfast in the faith and cannot be moved away from the hope of the Gospel (Col. 1:23).

He is a Person of Balance

Extremes usually do not make good goals. Radicalism, fanaticism, and an unbalanced emphasis is not Biblical, Christian, nor a proper concept of a spiritual leader. Jesus' life is pictured to us as one that was balanced:

Luke 2:51 _____

Luke 2:52 _____

A balanced person is a steady person—one that is prepared for any situation that comes along. A one-sided person can only be a help to people in the one area that he stresses—if what he says or does can help people.

The Apostle Paul had problems with some of the people in the early church because of their one-sidedness. Today, we call such people "hobby-riders." They are so one-sided that they want to ride a "thing" to death. Every time they speak, it is the same thing over and over. They ride it into the ground.

Christians can also be one-sided when they put such an emphasis upon "holding to the truth" but they neglect the weightier matters (Matt. 23:23). It was right to give, but it was also right and necessary to emphasize "**Justice, mercy, and faith!**" It is like people who say they love God, but hate their brother—they are one-sided! In reality, they do not love God according to the Apostle John:

1 John 3:10-12 _____

1 John 4:20 _____

The balanced Christian is not one who adds only one or two of the Christian Graces or the Fruit of the Spirit, but all of them (2 Pet. 1:5-11; Gal. 5:22-23). Our lives should be well-rounded—balanced—seeking to do all of the will of God.

The balanced Christian is one that allows all of his being to be brought under the control of the Spirit of God:

We are determined to set our will to do the Will of God:

John 7:17 _____

Phil. 3:14 _____

We are determined to fill our minds (intellect) with the Word of God:

John 17:3 _____

2 Pet. 3:18 _____

We are determined to bring our emotions into the control and direction of God's Will:

Col. 3:1-3 _____

2 Kings 5:11 _____

Concluding Thoughts

A great spiritual leader is one who is STABLE! He is one who has convictions, he is disciplined, and a person of balance. Who would not want to have such a person to lead them in the way of righteousness. Jesus is the perfect leader for all people.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

True or False

- ___ 1. The Bible pointed out that people in Jesus' day built their houses on sand because there were no rocks to be used.
- ___ 2. Jesus said that He was the foundation upon which the church is built.
- ___ 3. Jesus is also a stone that caused stumbling and offenses with people.
- ___ 4. A stable person will find a way to miss being persecuted if at all possible.
- ___ 5. Being tossed "to and fro" with every wind of doctrine is said to be unstable.
- ___ 6. Lack of conviction can cause a person to fall away from Christ.
- ___ 7. A consistent person is a disciplined person.
- ___ 8. To beat one's body is the way to bring it into line.
- ___ 9. Fanaticism and radicalism is an unbalanced way of life.
- ___ 10. Jesus was accused of being unbalanced.

SELF-EXAMINATION OF A STABLE LEADER

Yes or No

- ___ 1. I strengthen my convictions by listening to others teach the Word of God.
- ___ 2. I am not afraid of being moved away from the truth of God.
- ___ 3. I am continually preparing myself to be able to teach others the Word of God.
- ___ 4. I do not allow doubt to continue being a part of my Christian outlook.
- ___ 5. I am growing in my ability to discipline my mind and my life.
- ___ 6. I feel that I am firmly established in the faith, grounded and steadfast.
- ___ 7. I am trying to make my life like Jesus' balanced life.
- ___ 8. I examine myself to be sure that I am not a "hobby-rider!"
- ___ 9. I strive not to allow my emotions rule my life.

Lesson Ten

*"One Who Strives to Have
a Good Attitude and Spirit"*

Possibly all of us have heard the expression, "To eat Crow!" Sometimes it is a very humbling experience to openly admit that I have been wrong about something or in my attitude or actions. For the Christian, to "eat cross" is not only necessary, but very desirable (even though the "crow" doesn't taste very good. The key thought here is that of repentance that leads to open confession of a wrong. Jesus makes it "crystal clear" that **"unless (we) repent, (we) shall all likewise perish!"** (Lk. 13:3). Repentance and confession leads to salvation or eternal life (Rom. 10:9-10; Acts 2:38). Thus, we willingly do these things so that we can have the promise of life with God someday.

Leadership is possible without a good attitude and spirit, but it is not the best of leaderships. It is certainly not the kind that God has ordained for His church. A popular view of leadership today is "Fighting one's way to the top." Such people do not care how it is done, nor whom they may hurt in the process. The end justifies the means used. This attitude has resulted in wrong kind of leadership such as: **Political bosses, unscrupulous capitalists, Racketeering labor leaders, Ruthless war lords, and Exploiters of mankind.** This kind of leadership has marred the pages of both political and religious history. Such leadership has brought "Christianity" into disrepute among intelligent and thinking people (Prov. 30:21-23). It leaves a blot that is hard to erase. This obviously is not the kind of leadership God wants. Rather, He wants leadership that has a good attitude and spirit that reflects the spirit of Christ Himself.

An Attitude and Spirit of Humility

Leadership in the church is not self-elevating, but self-effacing. It is not a position of power and authority to be sought after, but a position of service, humility, and self-sacrifice.

Phil. 2:5-8 _____

Matt. 20:25-28 _____

John 12:13-15 _____

The disciples that Jesus chose to be His Apostles illustrate this concept. They were fishermen, publican, and a zealot. They were the best that He could find that would become **RIGHT** leaders in the church. He chose simple, sincere, and energetic men. He took ordinary men and turned them into extraordinary servants of God. Haughtiness, arrogance, pride, disdain, presumption, Assumption, and vanity are deadly sins that destroy people. The "ego" of man must be dealt with

correctly if he is to be an effective spiritual leader in the church. He must not forget that he is a servant, not the master.

An Attitude of Courage

God does not want us to have a spirit of fear, but of courage. Fear in the lives of leaders in the church has been a major hindrance to its growth and progress. This is especially true in carrying out the great commission as we should.

Rev. 21:8

2 Tim. 1:7

Fear brings many evils:

1. Puts faith in God into the background.
2. It tends to kill the spirit of the local church.
3. It shows that the Evil One is too much in control of our minds.
4. It helps to destroy the unity of an ongoing church.
5. It helps to destroy the effective evangelization of mankind.
6. It undermines enthusiasm within a congregation.
7. It reflects upon the power of God.
8. It hinders spiritual growth of Christians.

Fears that Leaders must deal with:

1. The fear of failure.
2. Criticism.
3. Rejection
4. Problems
5. Being Misunderstood.
6. Hard work
7. Pressure
8. Being wrong
9. Embarrassment.
10. Failing finances.

We need courage to do the following:

Gal. 6:1

Tit. 1:10-14

2 Thess. 3:6-15

2 Tim. 2:22

Mk. 16:15

A Positive Spiritual Outlook

The Christian can be either positive or negative or spiritual or carnal in his outlook (2 Tim. 1:7; Rom. 8:5). The spiritually-minded outlook should show great respect for the words of God's Spirit—to believe and trust in them as correct, right and true; and, to surrender one's life to that teaching.

A positive spiritual outlook is shown by a Great Faith and Confidence in God. Extraordinary faith can reasonably be expected to produce dramatic activities. To illustrate:

- a) If one believes in the sacrificial death of Jesus, he will tend to be more self-sacrificing.
- b) If one believes in a wise creator, he will tend to have a sense of purpose and direction for their lives.
- c) When one understands the significance of forgiveness, he tends to be more forgiving of others.
- d) If one is convinced of the holiness of God, he tends to try to be holy also.
- e) If one believes that God's Spirit dwells within, it causes a totally different outlook about engaging in sinful activities.

This concept is illustrated in the lives of Noah, Abraham, Moses, Gideon, etc. (Heb. 11). It was this faith, trust, and positive spiritual outlook that made these great men and women leaders and models for us today.

An Open-Minded Attitude

Closed-mindedness is condemned by God!

Matt. 13:13-16 _____

Jesus' efforts were ineffective because of the closed-mindedness of the people. This is still a prevalent problem among religious people—then and now! Such makes one hard to live with or to associate with. It makes it hard to serve as a leader with such a person. But open-mindedness is commended by Jesus:

Matt. 13:16 _____

Acts 17:11 _____

There needs to be a willingness to listen with kindness and courtesy and then to evaluate the thoughts in view of the teaching of the Word of God. It is an admittance that I could be wrong in my understanding and that I need to be open to truth—not error! It is to show a burning desire to know truth.

John 8:32 _____

Prov. 23:23 _____

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

True or False

- ___ 1. "Eating Crow" for the Christian is a necessity.
- ___ 2. The Christian does not have to openly confess every time he sins.
- ___ 3. Leadership is possible without a person having a good attitude.
- ___ 4. Wrong religious leadership has been the downfall of the church through the ages.
- ___ 5. A spirit of humility in a leader takes away from his leadership ability.
- ___ 6. A courageous leader can run roughshod over meek people.
- ___ 7. A positive spiritual outlook is shown by faith and confidence in God.
- ___ 8. The closed-minded person is usually protected from being misled by false teachers.
- ___ 9. One of leadership's least problem is fear.
- ___ 10. Open-minded people are usually very gullible.

SELF-EVALUATION OF MY ATTITUDES

Yes or No

- ___ 1. I constantly strive to confess any wrongs that I know of in my life.
- ___ 2. I am aware at all times of how my attitude is shown to others.
- ___ 3. I try not to elevate myself before others, but still offer to serve others.
- ___ 4. I realize that Jesus used ordinary men to accomplish His purposes and that I can be used as well today.
- ___ 5. I am aware of the danger of giving in to things that I am afraid of.
- ___ 6. I know that criticism or being misunderstood will come because of being in a leadership position.
- ___ 7. I want to exemplify a positive spiritual attitude, but not to the exclusion of facing up to sinful teachings or sinful actions in God's people or in myself.
- ___ 8. I am constantly reminding myself of the need to be open and listen to what others have to say concerning the Scriptures.
- ___ 9. I pray for the courage to admit it when I am wrong.

Lesson Eleven

*"One Who Strives to be an
Active and Working Christian"*

"If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat." (2 Thess. 3:10). Man was created by God to work! Adam was given the job of keeping the Garden of Eden (Gen. 2:15). After his disobedience, his work responsibilities were made harder (Gen. 3:17-19). The Christian is expected to work to earn his living and to support his/her family (Eph. 4:28; 1 Tim. 5:8). The wise man said: *"(it) is better that man should be happy in his activities, for that is his lot."* (Eccl. 3:22). There are different concepts connected with the word "work."

1. There is work that a man does to earn his living in order to survive physically.
2. But there is also the work that God expects of us that will bring spiritual blessings and end in eternal life.

In this lesson, we will be looking at the second concept—the work that we do as a Christian that is pleasing to God. A good leader is an active, working Christian!

Work Principles

- 1. He will have a deep sense of responsibility (Matt. 25:19-20).** He has been given a task to do by God and he strives to fulfill that job.
- 2. A Leader must know how to delegate (2 Tim. 2:2).** He can't do everything—and besides, others need to be involved. We share in the work together with God (1 Cor. 3:9).
- 3. A Leader will be the one out front—working! (1 Cor. 11:1).** He does not say "get going," but rather, "Let's go!" He leads in the work to be done. The difference between leading and following is one of speed, passion, and method. He assumes that people are not working for him, but with him—they are partners in the work of God.
- 4. He is a self-starter—a man of action! (1 Cor. 15:58).** He does not need someone pushing to get him to do his work. Once he knows what is expected, he can be depended upon to do the job.
- 5. He is a finisher! (2 Tim. 4:7).** The work that God gave him to do was coming to an end for Paul, but he had been faithful all the way to the end (Rev. 2:10). He had finished the race with great hope of reward.
- 6. Leaders serve with Boldness in the faith! (1 Tim. 3:13).** They are not afraid of what men can and often-times will do, because they are working with God in a great cause.
- 7. His good works are obvious to all! (1 Tim. 5:10).** God wants His people to highly esteem leaders because of their good works (1 Thess. 5:13). He is busy in godliness (1 Tim. 4:7-8).

Emphasis upon Good Works

Jesus and Good Works:

Jn. 4:34—*"My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work."*

Jn. 9:4—*"I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work."*

Jn. 10:32—*"Many good works I have shown you from My Father."*

Necessity of Good works:

Matt. 5:16—*"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."*

Matt. 23:5—*"But all their works they do to be seen by men." (Wrong Purpose)*

Acts 26:20—*"...that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance."*

2 Cor. 11:15—*"Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works."*

Eph. 2:10—*"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."*

Phil. 2:12-13—*"work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure."*

Col. 1:10—*"That you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God."*

2 Thess. 2:17—*"...and establish you in every good word and work."*

1 Tim. 5:10—*"well reported for good works..."*

1 Tim. 6:18—*"...rich in good works"*

2 Tim. 2:21—*"prepared for every good work."*

2 Tim. 3:17—*"Thoroughly equipped for every good work."*

Tit. 2:7—*"In all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works"*

Tit. 2:14—*"...zealous of good works."*

Tit. 3:1—*"...ready for every good work"*

Tit. 3:8—*"be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men."*

Rev. 2:26—*"And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations."*

The emphasis upon good works by the Christian is obvious! We are to be a people of good works. Do our good works justify us before God? Yes and No! They do not make us just in the sense of being perfectly righteous, but they do make us just as an expression and proof of our faith in the promises of God. The absence of good works in our lives proves that our faith is really **DEAD!** (Jas. 2:17-24). We need desperately to be a people known for their good works. But we need leaders who lead us in such activities to the glorification of God.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

True or False

- ___ 1. Work is not man's invention, but God's design for man.
- ___ 2. Man's sin has made his work harder, but more enjoyable.
- ___ 3. God does not command man to work, it is just understood that it should be done.
- ___ 4. A sense of responsibility to work is only for the man to have.
- ___ 5. A leader does not work, but supervises.
- ___ 6. A leader needs to be a man of action—he needs to be a self-starter.
- ___ 7. Jesus set the example of both kinds of work.
- ___ 8. Christians are to fill their lives with works, whether good or evil.
- ___ 9. We need to be fruitful in our work for the Lord.
- ___ 10. The Christian needs to be equipped for every good work.

**SELF-EXAMINATION OF THE
ACTIVE, WORKING CHRISTIAN**

Yes or No

- ___ 1. I realize my responsibility of working to care for my family.
- ___ 2. I try not to neglect the works that a Christian should be involved in.
- ___ 3. I am constantly looking for ways to help other people.
- ___ 4. I can be depended upon when appointed to a work of the church.
- ___ 5. I am known for the good works that I do.
- ___ 6. My faith is not dead, but alive and active—filled with good works.
- ___ 7. I try to show respect to our leaders because of their good works.
- ___ 8. I have seen how that good works can open the door to a person's heart to listen to the gospel.
- ___ 9. I am determined to prepare myself for more good works in my life.

Lesson Twelve

*"Church Leaders Need to Have
Well-Qualified Lives!"*

By the time we get through with this study (if not already), someone is shouting "*What are you wanting—a Super Leader!*" And it would be very easy to say a big **YES!** to such a question. When you present the information about who would make an ideal leader, it is obvious to all that such people will be rare among us. But oh how badly we all need such examples of quality people in our midst to continually remind us and challenge us on to become the "ideal person" to lead God's people onward and upward.

The need for spiritually qualified leaders is obvious when you see that our leaders in the world have influenced and led millions to doom and destruction. But even more so, when you look at what has happened to the Lord's church through the centuries—we see leaders who have led people in the wrong direction away from God.

In this lesson we want to look at an overall Biblical view of good leadership in all major areas of a person's life.

SOCIAL QUALIFIES

This deals with a person's relationship with others. It is determining if they are able to identify with those who they stand before to lead. It is to determine whether they are liked and admired or not. The ideal leader would be one that is highly esteemed by those who know him (1 Thess. 5:13).

Bible References:

1. He has an honest report from his peers. (Acts 6:3).
2. He is a willing servant to all. (1 Cor. 9:19).
3. He has concern for people. (2 Cor. 8:15; 12:15; Phil. 2:19-21).
4. He avoids things which cause strife. (1 Tim. 1:4; 4:7; 6:20-21; 2 Tim. 2:16; Tit. 1:14; 3:9).
5. He respects others. (1 Tim. 5:1-3).
6. He is gentle. (2 Tim. 2:24; 1 Tim. 3:3).
7. He is patient. (2 Tim. 2:24; 1 Tim. 3:3).
8. He is meek. (2 Tim. 2:25).
9. He has a good report of all. (3 John 12; 1 Tim. 3:7).
10. He is an example to others. (Heb. 13:7; 1 Pet. 5:3).
11. He does not lord it over others. (1 Pet. 5:3; 3 John 9-10).
12. He has good behavior before others. (1 Tim. 3:2).
13. He is given to hospitality. (1 Tim. 3:2; Tit. 1:8).
14. He is no striker or brawler. (1 Tim. 3:3; Tit. 1:7)
15. He is not soon angry. (Tit. 1:7).
16. He is a lover of good men. (Tit. 1:8).

17. He is just. (Tit. 1:8)
18. He has proven himself to others. (1 Tim. 3:10).

MORAL QUALITIES

These would indicate that a leader demonstrates by his habits and actions that he is in control of his life. Self-control is a primary concept in the moral realm. There is integrity to his life that is respected by all who know him.

Bible References:

1. He shows courage. (Acts 5:29; Gal. 2:3-5, 11-14; Num. 13:20; Eph. 6:13).
2. He wrongs no one, corrupts no one, defrauds no one. (2 Cor. 7:2; 12:17-18).
3. He teaches God's Word to all at any time that is possible (2 Tim. 4:2).
4. He does not serve for money as his end. (1 Pet. 5:2; 1 Tim. 3:3; Tit. 1:7).
5. He is sober. (1 Tim. 3:2).
6. He is not given to wine. (1 Tim. 3:3, 8; Tit. 1:7).
7. He is not covetous. (1 Tim. 3:3).
8. He is temperate. (Tit. 1:8).
9. He is grave. (1 Tim. 3:8).
10. He does not have a double-tongue. (1 Tim. 3:8).
11. He manages his finances well. (1 Tim. 6:17-19; 1 Cor. 4:2).
12. He is diligent. (Prov. 12:24).
13. He is honest. (Rom. 12:17).

MENTAL QUALITIES

A good leader's mind is clear and capable of making good evaluations of situations. He is able to make good, just, wise decisions that affect the lives of others. He is respected and esteemed because he makes wise and just decisions. He shows a knowledge and respect for God's Word. He is able to make good use of God's Word in his life and decision making. He has the ability to communicate effectively and lovingly. With truth, he is able to exhort, encourage, rebuke, and instruct others.

Bible References:

1. He is full of wisdom. (Acts 6:3).
2. He is able to use special gifts well. (1 Cor. 3:6).
3. He is determined to take heed to the doctrine of Christ. (1 Tim. 4:16).
4. He is able to commit the faithful word to faithful men. (2 Tim. 2:2).
5. He is able to know what needs to be set in order and is able to see that it is done correctly. (Tit. 1:5).
6. He speaks sound doctrine. (Tit. 2:1).
7. He is capable of teaching the Word of God. (1 Tim. 3:2).
8. He holds fast to the faithful Word. (Tit. 1:9).
9. He holds the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. (1 Tim. 3:9).
10. He is able to teach younger persons. (Tit. 2:3-4).
11. He knows the Bible well and is able to use it wisely (2 Tim. 2:15; 2 Pet. 1:5).
12. He manages his time well. (Eph. 5:16).

SPIRITUAL QUALITIES

The main (and obvious) requirement of a good leader is one who submits to and commits to follow Jesus sincerely. He minds the things of the Spirit, not the things of the world. His affections have been set on things above, not on things on the earth.

Bible References:

1. He is full of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 6:3, 5).
2. He is full of faith. (Acts 6:5; Mk. 9:23).
3. He is given to prayer. (Acts 6:4).
4. He is given to the ministry of the Word. (Acts 6:4).
5. He seeks to please God rather than men. (Gal. 1:10).
6. He is dedicated to God's service. (Phil. 2:29-30).
7. He holds to the faith and keeps a good conscience. (1 Tim. 1:19).
8. He follows after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, and meekness. (1 Tim. 6:11).
9. He is not entangled too much with the affairs of this life. (2 Tim. 2:3-4).
10. He is watchful. (2 Tim. 4:5).
11. He is a willing leader. (1 Thess. 5:11-12).
12. He is clothed with humility. (1 Pet. 5:5).
13. He is vigilant. (1 Tim. 3:2).
14. He is striving to live holy. (Tit. 1:8).
15. He is striving to be blameless. (1 Tim. 3:10).
16. He is zealous. (Rev. 3:15-16; Tit. 2:14).
17. His goal is heaven. (Phil. 3:14).

DOMESTIC QUALITIES

A church leader's home life is critical in the church because of the closeness of the group. His domestic qualities need to be in harmony with other areas of his life. He is guiding and leading his own family shows the kind of leader he would make in the church. If he fails in the home, it is hard to see how he can be very influential in the church.

Bible References:

1. He is the husband of one wife. (1 Tim. 3:2, 12; Tit. 1:6).
2. He rules his own house well, having his children in subjection with all gravity. (1 Tim. 3:4, 12).
3. He has faithful children that are not accused of riot and being unruly. (Tit. 1:6).
4. He loves, honors, and esteems his wife. (Eph. 5:25-31; 1 Pet. 3:7).
5. He trains his children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. (Eph. 6:4).
6. He provides for his own household. (1 Tim. 5:8).

MATURITY QUALITIES

With his chronological age, spiritual development, and knowledge of God's Word—coupled with experiences of life—a person can be quite mature. Church leaders need to be able to deal maturely with not only his own afflictions, tribulations, successes, and failures; but, as well to help others do the same. He should come out with a stronger faith in God and help others to become stronger as well.

Bible References:

1. He has a willingness and desire to serve. (Acts 6:3; 1 Pet. 5:2; 1 Tim. 3:1).
2. He is self-disciplined. (1 Cor. 9:27; 6:12).
3. He has learned to be content in all situations. (Phil. 4:11-12).
4. His life is an example. (1 Tim. 4:12; Tit. 2:7-8).
5. He takes heed to himself. (1 Tim. 4:16).
6. He keeps what is committed to his trust. (1 Tim. 6:20).
7. He is able to examine self. (Acts 20:28).
8. He is watchful. (Acts 20:28).
9. He is blameless. (1 Tim. 3:2; Tit. 1:6).
10. He is not a novice. (1 Tim. 3:6).
11. He is not self-willed. (Tit. 1:7).
12. He realizes the gravity of teaching. (Jas. 3:1).
13. He is industrious. (Eccl. 9:10).
14. He is complete and mature. (Col. 2:10).
15. He sees possibilities of accomplishment. (Phil. 4:13).

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

Obviously, men who measure up to these qualities should make the best spiritual leaders. These qualities will challenge the best within a person. When churches compromise these qualities when appointing leaders, they will find that they will not measure up to what the church needs. Appointed leaders also need to reach up to meet the challenges, rather than be satisfied with mediocrity. And....the church needs to show gratitude and respect for those who aspire to such heights of leadership qualities.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

True or False

- 1. It is wrong to want to have "super spiritual leaders."
- 2. Poor leadership has often done much harm in the church in the past.
- 3. Good leadership needs to be liked and admired.
- 4. An ideal leader does not necessarily need to be one who has been proven previously.
- 5. Self-control is a primary concept in a leader's life.
- 6. A leader does not serve for the money.
- 7. A good leader has to have at least a college education today.
- 8. A good church leader has to know the Word of God from "cover to cover!"
- 9. A good church leader should be full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom.
- 10. A good leader cannot get too tired up in the affairs of this life.

SELF-EVALUATION OF A CHURCH LEADER

Yes or No

- 1. I've decided after studying through these lessons not to serve as a leader.
- 2. I've decided after studying through these lessons that I want to become the best leader I can be.
- 3. I've realized that I can't be a leader in the church and be effective if my job or family are too demanding on me.
- 4. I am not sure that I have a good report from within and without the church.
- 5. I feel that I do measure up to quite a few of the qualities that we have studied, but I am not sure that I should offer to serve as a leader at this point.
- 6. I have never taught the gospel to and baptized another person; and, therefore feel that I am unqualified to be an elder.
- 7. My children are not all faithful to the Lord after they left home and therefore I do not feel that I would have a good influence on the church.
- 8. Spiritual leadership is too demanding for me at this point in my life.
- 9. I would like some day to become a strong spiritual leader in the church.

