

Leaders for Christ

Bible Study | The Church of God International | June 4, 2016



Introduction

Today, we will talk about one of the hottest topics in the world. A subject that affects our life, attitude, behavior, performance and well-being. It is a buzzword in the corporate world and in politics.



Yes, the word is LEADERSHIP.



Human beings are social creatures. We live together in large groups.



It is therefore necessary that people work
and function independently and yet
cohesively to survive and progress.



Leadership is a social phenomenon.



In order for society to function and endure, it must develop a structure of co-existence for it to grow and flourish. Naturally, people are divided into leaders and followers.



The leaders pave the way and direct others towards new frontiers, while the followers support and implement the change.



Leadership has a vast impact in society. It is often intangible, yet it is instrumental in achieving social change.



It is impossible to create change and move
people without leadership.



Leadership points the direction, ignites passion, motivate people, inspire action and unite interest towards a common goal.



Leadership shapes the thinking, attitude,
behavior and destiny of a society,
organization and/or any group of
individuals towards a singular objective.



A leader has the power to influence many people and the capacity to change people's lives.



A good and competent leader can create a positive impact in society and lead many to happiness, abundance and success.



On the other hand, a poor and bad leader
can create a negative impact and cause
harm and despair.



In short, leadership impacts and influences
people's life.



Thus, leadership is defined as the ability to inspire or influence people towards the achievement of a goal.



The Natural Leader

God has put in place a system of natural leadership. This leadership starts from the family unit. Human society is an outgrowth of the family system.



God has put the father and the husband as
the leaders of the household.



Today's topic comes at the heel of the Bible study last month on 'Honor Your Father and Your Mother.'



Psalms 78:1-8 records the words of Asaph.



Psalms 78:1-8

A maskil of Asaph.

- (1) My people, hear my teaching;
listen to the words of my mouth.
- (2) I will open my mouth with a parable;
I will utter hidden things, things from of
old—
- (3) things we have heard and known,
things our ancestors have told us.



Psalms 78:1-8

- (4) We will not hide them from their descendants;
we will tell the next generation
the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord,
his power, and the wonders he has done.
- (5) He decreed statutes for Jacob
and established the law in Israel,
which he commanded our ancestors
to teach their children,



Psalms 78:1-8

- (6) so the next generation would know them,
even the children yet to be born,
and they in turn would tell their children
 - (7) Then they would put their trust in God
and would not forget his deeds
but would keep his commands.
 - (8) They would not be like their ancestors—
a stubborn and rebellious generation,
whose hearts were not loyal to God,
whose spirits were not faithful to him.
-



In these verses Asaph spoke about the important role of fathers, one that is absolutely essential to the preservation of society and of our spiritual relationship with God.



God's governance has always been a
Theocracy. Theocracy is a form of
government in which a God is recognized
as the king and ruler.



In this system, the father is the head of the family and the elders are considered the head of the clan.



You can see a resemblance of this in family owned and run corporations wherein the patriarch, or founder, or members of the family hold key directorship in the corporation.



Our society has evolved since the time of
Nimrod and the Tower of Babel where
people gravitate towards a charismatic
and mighty leader.



Follow the Leader

People have the right and power to follow whom they choose. Leaders are everywhere. They are not confined to politics and corporate environments.



Whoever is able to influence you and shape
your thinking is your leader and you have
become his follower.



In the digital space today, there are many influencers. They have created a following for themselves.



Christians are the leaders for Christ. Jesus said that Christians are the salt of the earth and the light of the world.



Matthew 5:13-14

(13) “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

(14) “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.



God has made Christians the salt of this world to give divine flavor to the earth and light to the world.



We are to lead for Christ in the community,
home, work place and in any place where
we move and live.



1 Peter 3:15-16

(15) But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,

(16) keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.



We are the influencers of this world.
Christians are supposed to be the essence
of life and the role models for the world.



Our lives, faith and duty to God should shine
brightly as a guiding light in a darkened
world and hope to all mankind.



Paul said we are Christ's ambassadors here on earth. As Christians, we have a leader and He is Christ Jesus. He is the Head of the Church and we are His faithful followers.



Colossians 1:18

(18) And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.



Christian Leadership

To be a leader for Christ, we look to Jesus
as the role model for true leadership.



Below are four (4) hallmark traits of a
Christian leader.

A Christian leader should...

1. Share the Vision
2. Live by a Principle
3. Be a Team Player
4. Have Faith to the End



1. Share the Vision

Proverbs 29:18

“Where there is no vision, the people
perish.”



This is a true saying. Without vision there will be no progress, no advancement and no great leaps for humanity.



Without vision, no one will ever be able to
set an aim and plot a course for
advancement and achievement.



A leader must have vision, foresight and purpose. He must be able to articulate and share the vision. There is power in vision and goal setting.



Christ came to share His vision with mankind. This vision is the coming of the Kingdom of God.



During His 3 ½ years of ministry, Jesus preached about this Kingdom – the kingdom that has been prepared for us before the creation of the world.



Matthew 4:12-17

(12) When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee.

(13) Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali—

(14) to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah:



Matthew 4:12-17

- (15) “Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,
the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan,
Galilee of the Gentiles—
- (16) the people living in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of the shadow of
death
a light has dawned.”
- (17) From that time on Jesus began to
preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of
heaven has come near.”



Acts 1:3

(3) After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.



For us to become the followers of Christ, we
must share the same hope and vision.



In turn, we may lead others to Christ by sharing with others the same gospel and vision of hope.



What is this vision of hope? The answer is
in Ephesians 1:3-5.



Ephesians 1:3-5

- (3) Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.
 - (4) For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love
 - (5) he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—
-



The purpose of the creation is God is making you a son. This is what Paul wrote in the Book of Hebrews that the world to come (referring to the future) will not be subjected to the angels but to the saints who are to become sons and children of God.



Hebrews 2:5-17

(5) It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking.

(6) But there is a place where someone has testified: “What is mankind that you are mindful of them,
a son of man that you care for him



Hebrews 2:5-17

(7) You made them a little lower than the angels;

you crowned them with glory and honor

(8) and put everything under their feet.” In putting everything under them, God left nothing that is not subject to them. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to them.



Hebrews 2:5-17

(9) But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.



Hebrews 2:5-17

(10) In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered.

(11) Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.



Hebrews 2:5-17

(12) He says,

“I will declare your name to my brothers
and sisters;
in the assembly I will sing your praises.”

(13) And again,

“I will put my trust in him.”

And again he says,

“Here am I, and the children God has given
me.”



Hebrews 2:5-17

(14) Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—

(15) and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.



Hebrews 2:5-17

(16) For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants.

(17) For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.



Paul said that our lowly bodies will be transformed into glorious bodies like that of Christ. Notice carefully Philippians 3:21.



Philippians 3:21

(21) who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.



The Apostle categorically states that we are
to participate in the divine nature.



2 Peter 1:4

(4) Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.



I hope we start to comprehend the enormity
of the declaration and the vision of Christ
in His plan.



We are to participate in the divine nature
with glorified body similar to that of Christ.
This is our hope and destiny.



This is the vision that we share. As followers and leaders for Christ, we must share and imbibe the same glorious vision.



2. Live by a Principle

John 15:10

“If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love.”



A leader is a person who possesses high moral principles. He lives by a certain set of values.



Jesus, during His life on earth, kept the commandments of God and He taught His disciples to keep them as well.



The obedience to the commandment is the hallmark of God's people. Christians are identified by the way they live and behave.



2 Corinthians 2:14-17

(14) But thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives in Christ's triumphal procession and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of him everywhere.

(15) For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing.



2 Corinthians 2:14-17

(16) To the one we are an aroma that brings death; to the other, an aroma that brings life. And who is equal to such a task?

(17) Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, as those sent from God.



A leader is also a role model.



Colossians 3:9-10

- (9) Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices
- (10) and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.



2 Peter 3:18

(18) But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.



Jesus Christ is our role model and we are
the role model to others.



3. Be a Team Player

Luke 22:27

“For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.”



The traditional concept of a leadership is he bosses over the subordinates. As the boss, he has absolute control and power over the people.



He gives order, he tells them what to do, he bullies, he directs, he reprimands and he hires and fires.



He is supposed to be the most knowledgeable person in the team. Thus, he puts this sign on the desk for all to see:



A lot of managers feel this way. They are the boss and rule over the subordinates.



A Christian leader has a different mindset.
Thus, Jesus said in Matthew 20:25-28.



Matthew 20:25-28

(25) Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them.



Matthew 20:25-28

(26) Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant,

(27) and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—

(28) just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”



He sees himself as a servant of his subordinates. He leads by serving. He is to the team a trainer; coach; counselor; guide and mentor.



He is not the tormentor nor ruler of the team
rather he serves the needs of the team.



When skill is needed, he provides. When
conflict erupts, he resolves. When problem
arises, he solves.



When people come to see him when they have a problem, he doesn't scold them, he works with them so that they leave the office with a solution. It is the job of a manager to find solution to problems.



How wonderful when you have a manager who is more interested in solving problem than ego! This is what Jesus said in Mark 10:35-45 when the disciples were wrestling for position in the coming kingdom. Remember true leadership is service.



Mark 10:35-45

(35) Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. “Teacher,” they said, “we want you to do for us whatever we ask.”

(36) “What do you want me to do for you?” he asked.

(37) They replied, “Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory.”



Mark 10:35-45

(38) “You don’t know what you are asking,” Jesus said. “Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?”

(39) “We can,” they answered.



Mark 10:35-45

Jesus said to them, “You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with,

(40) but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared.”



Mark 10:35-45

(41) When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John.

(42) Jesus called them together and said, “You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them.



Mark 10:35-45

(43) Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant,

(44) and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all.

(45) For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”



Jesus is the epitome of the servanthood leadership. In fact, He gave an example in John 13:13-16.



John 13:13-16

(13) “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am.

(14) Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet.



John 13:13-16

(15) I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

(16) Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.



The modern term for this is “team player.”
The Christian leader is a team player.



He leads by example and he is at the
forefront of the action. He leads by
serving the needs and requirements of the
entire team.



Jesus exemplify this in His life. In fact, He puts His own life on the line. He died for all who will follow Him.



4. Be Faithful to the End

Hebrews 13:5

“God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”



A leader is one who is faithful to his vision and his followers. He is absolute and firm to his commitment and wavers not.



James 1:6

(6) But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.



A leader needs to demonstrate a resolve of
this belief.



A leader has many things on the plate. He has to cope with a lot views, suggestions, opinions and ideas. It is extremely easy to get distracted from the goal.



For a leader to be effective he has to train
his mind to focus at the end result.
Nothing changes his plan and outlook.



As leaders for Christ, Paul encourages us in
this way.



2 Corinthians 6:4-10

- (4) Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses;
- (5) in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger;



2 Corinthians 6:4-10

(6) in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love;

(7) in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left;



2 Corinthians 6:4-10

- (8) through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors;
- (9) known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed;



2 Corinthians 6:4-10

(10) sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.



Philippians 3:12-14

- (12) Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.
- (13) Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead,
- (14) I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.



We stay the course and be faithful to the
end.



Jesus never wavered on His mission. He completed His work and mission here on earth.



At the Last Supper He bid farewell to the
Apostles knowing full well He will be
betrayed and crucified. And in His prayer
He said in John 17:1-7.



John 17:1-7

(1) After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:

“Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.

(2) For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him.



John 17:1-7

- (3) Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.
- (4) I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do.
- (5) And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.



John 17:1-7

(6) “I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word.

(7) Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you.



One of the most significant words Jesus
uttered was recorded in John 19:28-30.



John 19:28-30

(28) Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.”

(29) A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips.

(30) When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.



These may be the last words he spoke:
“It is finished!”



Future Leader

Christians today are future leaders of the world tomorrow.



There is a new world coming – the Millennial
reign of Christ. Yes, our role in the
millennium is to rule with Christ.



God's government is a theocracy.
Theocracy means to be ruled by God.



Revelation 3:21

(21) To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne.



The righteous will be granted to sit with Christ on His throne. The 12 disciples will rule over the 12 houses of Israel.



Luke 22:30

(30) so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.



These are leadership roles reserved for the
saints.



1 Peter 2:9-10

(9) But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

(10) Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.



In 1 Peter 2:9-10 the Christians are called a Royal Priesthood. Royal priesthood refers to a kingly lineage and authority.



Revelation 1:6

(6) and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.



Again in Revelation 1:6, reference is made to a kingdom to be priest of God Most High. The saints are to become a kingdom of priest! They will be kings and priests of God Most High.



Revelation 5:10

(10) You have made them to be a kingdom
and priests to serve our God,
and they will reign on the earth.”



The saints are to become kings and priests;
and they reign upon earth. Yes, as priests
we are to reign with Christ a thousand
years!



Revelation 20:4

(4) I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.



The role of the saints is to reign with Christ
as Kings and Priests of God Most High!
Yes, the saints will have leadership role in
the coming Kingdom of God.



Summary

If you have ever wondered what the role of the saints (your role) will be in the Millennium; brethren, wonder no more!



The resurrected saints will have leadership position in the Kingdom of God - as Royal Priesthood – kings and priests of God - to reign with Christ for a thousand years.



Again, the four (4) hallmark traits of a
Christian leader are...

A Christian leader should...

1. Share the Vision
2. Live by a Principle
3. Be a Team Player
4. Have Faith to the End



Christian leadership is a role that we need to learn and put into practice today.

