

SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP

Text: I Corinthians 2:1-5

Key Word: Leadership

Key Thought: There is a Difference in Spiritual Leadership

We've probably all read a book or article dealing with the life of a great leader. It may have been one like the military leadership of Lord Montgomery, or the political leadership of Sir Winston Churchill; or the intellectual leadership of Albert Einstein.

We cannot read through the pages of Scripture without realizing that God works through great leaders (Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Deborah, David, Paul.)

Yet I'm sure we all would have different ideas about what a leader is all about.

*** General Charles Gordon once asked Li Hung Chang, an old Chinese leader, a double question: "*What is leadership? And how is humanity divided?*"

He received this thought provoking answer. "*There are three kinds of people in the world - those that are immovable those that are moveable and those that move them.*"

President Harry Truman said, "*A leader is a person who has the ability to get others to do what they don't want to do, and like it.*" ***

It has been said that the test of a leader is one who has followers who continue to follow in tough times.

There is a vast difference though in natural and spiritual leadership. We could spend hours noting the differences. **But Let's Consider Just a Few Noteworthy Differences.**

NATURAL

VS.

SPIRITUAL

**Self-confident
Selfishly motivated
Self-exalting
Self-sufficient
Self-wisdom**

**God-confident
Lovingly motivated
God-exalting
God-sufficient
Godly power**

I. SELF-CONFIDENT vs GOD-CONFIDENCE (I Corinthians 2:1-3)

II. SELF-WISDOM VS. GODLY POWER (I Corinthians 2:4,5)

I. SELF-CONFIDENT vs GOD-CONFIDENCE (I Corinthians 2:1-3)

We often try to select our leadership through the eyes of the world. We want someone who is very confident. Yet we've swung the pendulum so far that they must now have lots of self-confidence. Scriptures show me that God chose men differently than we do.

A. Moses

"O Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue."

11. The Lord said to him, "Who gave man his mouth? Who makes him deaf or mute? Who gives him sight or makes him blind? Is it not I the Lord?"

Exodus 4:10,11

B. Gideon

"The Lord turned to him and said "Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?"

15. "But Lord," Gideon asked, "How can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manesseh, am I the least in my family?"

Judges 6:14,15

C. David

"The Lord appeared to Samuel, 'Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.'"

I Samuel 16:7

I. SELF-CONFIDENT vs GOD-CONFIDENCE (I Corinthians 2:1-3) (Contd.)

C. David (Contd.)

"There is still the youngest, Jesse answered, "but he is tending the sheep. 'Samuel said, send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives.'

12. Then the Lord said, 'Rise and anoint him; he is the one.'"

I Samuel 16:11,12

D. Saul/Paul

"But Saul began to destroy the church, going from house to house, he dragged off men & women and put them in prison."

Acts 8:3

"But the Lord said to Ananias 'Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel.'"

Acts 9:15

Before God could use Saul he had to change Him to a Paul.

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live. But Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

Galatians 2:20

There was such a miraculous change in Saul that God changed his name to Paul. It was a new birth. He died to his old life and became a new man in Christ. The old was passed away and everything became new. It was a maneuver! It was a complete turnover. It wasn't simply an outward change but rather a change of his entire soul.

I. SELF-CONFIDENT vs GOD-CONFIDENCE (I Corinthians 2:1-3) (Contd.)

D. Saul/Paul (Contd.)

“If anyone else thinks He has reasons to put confidence in flesh, I have more
5. circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee;
6. as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.
*7. **But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.***
8. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things.”

Philippians 3:4-8

“A true and safe leader is likely to be one who has no desire to lead, but is forced into a position of leadership by the inward pressure of the Holy Spirit and the press of external situation.

I believe it might be accepted as a fairly reliable rule of thumb that the man who is ambitious to lead is disqualified as a leader.”

A.W. Tozer
“The Reaper”
Feb. 1962 p.459

God is looking for men and women who place their confidence in Him and His ability not their power and their ability. Our self-confidence can make us eat some humble pie.

5554 Salesman to Eat Dust

** A salesman who was selling vacuum cleaners knocked at the door of a remote farm- house. When the lady of the house opened the door, he walked in and dumped a bag of dirt on the floor.

“Now” boasted the salesman, “I want to make a bargain with you. If this super duper, new vacuum cleaner doesn't pick up every bit of this dirt, I'll eat what's left.”

“Here's the spoon,” said the farmer's wife, “we don't have any electricity.” **

II. SELF-WISDOM VS. GODLY POWER (I Corinthians 2:4,5)

** A man once approached a speaker and said, "You Christians are all brain-washed." The speaker replied *"I think we are all brain-washed to a degree, The important thing is that we Christians choose what we want to wash our brains with."* **

All of us have chosen to follow something or someone. Even the most gifted teacher has his mentor. Although Paul was taught by Gamaliel, one of the seven most influential rabbis and proved to be a brilliant student, Paul still looked to a wiser teacher - God.

An anonymous writer suggested that Paul, if living today, could speak Chinese in Peking, quoting Confucius and; write closely - reasoned theology in English and expound it in Oxford; and defend his cause before the Soviet Academy of Sciences in Russian in Moscow. He was the most versatile and gifted man the Church of God has ever known.

Paul wrote,

"I was advancing in Judaism beyond many Jews of my own age and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers."

Galatians 1:14

In addition to all these blessings, God gave Paul a rich illumination, revelation and inspiration of His will. None of these things were extras but rather were indispensable to meet the calling that God placed upon his life. **A natural leader is satisfied with self-wisdom but a spiritual leader also cries out for Godly power to channel that wisdom.** Paul also wrote,

"I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I preached is not something that man made up. 12. I did not receive it from any man nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ."

Galatians 1:11,12

Paul received a revelation of God and His power. The church needs an illumination of what has already been revealed. People who receive revelations are more likely to fall into the trap of pride. **God's revelation is complete.** Let us allow it to come alive in our hearts and minds.

II. SELF-WISDOM VS. GODLY POWER (I Corinthians 2:4,5) (Contd.)

God's wisdom is more than just the ability to properly use the knowledge we have; It is also powerful.

One of God's promises in the end of time is,

"For I will give words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict."

Luke 21:15

One of the spiritual qualifications of church leadership is,

*"He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect.
5. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?"*

I Timothy 3:4,5

"An elder must be...a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient."

Titus 1:6

This takes Godly wisdom and Godly power to fulfill. The enemy has over-used the weapon of disobedient children to destroy many a good church.

It will take great wisdom to find the balance between carrying out the spiritual duties of the church and of the home. If a man is not prepared to lead his family in Bible readings/study, prayer, tithes and offerings, consistent church attendance, witnessing, and consistent Godly living, then he is not prepared to be a leader of God's church.

It has been rightly said,

"Don't even follow a leader, until you know whom he/she is following."

II. SELF-WISDOM VS. GODLY POWER (I Corinthians 2:4,5) (Contd.)

The world has a warped idea of leadership. It says,

"A good leader inspires men to have confidence in him; a great leader inspires them to have confidence in themselves."

Godly leadership inspires men to have confidence in the wisdom and power of God. Paul wanted to lead his followers to someone much greater than himself or themselves.

*"so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom
but on God's power."*

I Corinthians 2:5

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Date: Nov 13/16

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: I Exalt Thee - D

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D. Saul/Paul - *Acts 8:3; Acts 9:15; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 3:4-8*

II. SELF-WISDOM VS. GODLY POWER (I Corinthians 2:4,5) - *Galatians 1:14; Galatians 1:11,12; Luke 21:15; I Timothy 3:4,5; Titus 1:6; I Corinthians 2:5*