

The Philosophy of Ministry – Week 11

“Biblical Leadership”

- What do you believe defines a good leader? What qualities are necessary?
- In what ways have you had to display leadership in your life?
- In this lesson we will examine some key truths concerning biblical leadership and 15 characteristics of a biblical leader from the 2 Timothy 2.
- **Read Matthew 20:25-28**

1. Biblical leadership is not simply a _____

A. Luke 22:24–26 — 24; *And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest. 25; And he said unto them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them **are called benefactors. 26; But ye shall not be so:** but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve.* (Matthew 20:25-28).

B. _____ do not make people in ministry.

1) If you have to tell people to follow your lead because of your title, you are seeking to exercise authoritarian leadership over them and not biblical leadership.

2) Titles may work in the military and business world to cause people to follow, but not in a volunteer-based ministry.

C. John Maxwell – “Leadership is influence”; what do you think he means by that?

1) If you are leading and no one is following, do you believe you are really leading?

2) Are you influencing anyone? Does anyone follow you?

3) If you think, “*once I am a teacher, youth pastor, staff member, missionary, pastor, ...then I will be able to lead*”; you are mistaken. People who go into a position of leadership are _____ leading.

2. Biblical leadership is _____ leadership

A. There are many different leadership styles in the world:

1) **Transactional** (performance focused, carrot & stick approach)

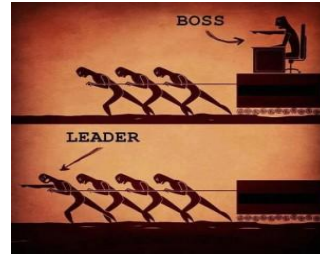
2) **Autocratic** (authoritarian; results focused, decides alone)

3) **Bureaucratic** – (similar to autocratic; hierarchical, duty focused, impersonal)

4) **Laissez-faire** – (hands off, permissive, power with staff, delegatory - Opposite of autocratic leadership).

5) **Charismatic/Visionary** – (progress focused, inspirational, motivates towards a big vision)

- 6) **Transformational** – (objective focused, goal setting)
- 7) **Democratic/participative** (makes consensus decisions)
- 8) **Relations-oriented** (focused on building the people/team)
- 9) **Servant**



B. "What is servant leadership?" The words servant and leader are usually thought of as being opposites, kind of like “jumbo shrimp”. In 1970, retired AT&T executive Robert K. Greenleaf (1904-1990) coined the term servant-leadership and launched a quiet revolution in the way in which many in America view and practice leadership. But thousands of years before Greenleaf was even born, Jesus defined and displayed servant leadership.

C. How does Jesus define servant leadership in Matthew 20:26-28? _____

1) Matthew 20:26-28 – “whosoever will be great among you, let him be your _____”

- **V. 26** – “**minister**” comes from the Greek word “**diakonos**”, and simply means a servant. It is where we get the word “**deacon**”.

2) v. 27 – “And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant:”

a. “Servant” comes from the Greek word “**doulos**” which is used _____ **times** in the New Testament.

b. The word literally means a _____.

- 1) There were no less than ____ Greek words denoting servitude, and from all these Jesus chose the very strongest word to describe the most absolute servitude. – Picture a slave market: a slave is placed upon the block; the auctioneer stands up and auctions him off; somebody buys him, and he becomes a bondsman. Such a slave is called a *doulos*.
- 2) It speaks of one who belongs to another, one who gives himself up to another’s will, and is devoted to another to the disregard of one’s own interests.
- 3) It is used as a metaphor of the believer who belongs to Christ, who follows the Lord’s will and who seeks to advance the His causes among men.

a) **I Corinthians 6:19-20** – “*What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.*”

- b) To be a “doulos” is to fulfill the words of Jesus when He said, “If any man come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, ...”

c. The disciples understood this call later in the New Testament, and it was their desire to be known as the slaves of Jesus Christ.

- 1) **Romans 1:1** — *Paul, a servant (doulos) of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,*
- 2) **Jude 1:1** - Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ,
- 3) **2 Peter 1:1** - Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ,
- 4) **Revelation 1:1** - The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:
- 5) **Romans 1:1** - Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,
- 6) **Philippians 1:1** - Paul and Timotheus, the SERVANTS of Jesus Christ
- 7) **Titus 1:1** - Paul, a servant of God,
- 8) **Joshua 1:1-2a** *“Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister (servant), saying, (2) Moses my servant is dead;...”*
- 9) Moses was even known as the “servant of the Lord” by other nations (Joshua 9:24)!

3. Biblical leadership understands it is not about _____

- A.** Leadership is not about what you can “get” out of it, but rather what you can _____ out of it.

1) **Matthew 20:28** — *Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to _____, and to give his life a ransom for many.*

2) Leadership is not a way to get in the _____ of the line, but rather to get in the _____ of the line.

- B.** Leadership is not about what people can do for you in that position, but what you can do for them _____ that position.

1) Do you see leading as a way of personal benefit or do you see it as a way to benefit others?

2) Do you see being in a leadership role as a way to minister to others, or as a way others can minister to you?

- **2 Corinthians 8:9** — *For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.*

4. Biblical leadership places _____ before self

- A. Matthew 20:28** — *Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, **and to give his life a ransom for many.***

- B. Philippians 2:3–4** — *Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem _____ better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of _____.*
- C.** What did Jesus say was the second greatest command to follow? _____
-

- 1) Matthew 22:39** — *And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*
- What does this verse presuppose? _____
 - Man's natural tendency is to love ourselves, what is not natural is to love others as ourselves! That is a result of the supernatural work of God in us.

- 2) Paul said of Timothy in Philippians 2:19–20** — *But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state. For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for _____ state.*

- D. Question:** Who do you speak about more, yourself or others?
- E.** Do you see the importance of your needs being met more than the needs of others?
- F.** How does Jesus exemplify this in John 4 with the women at the well?
- G.** Pride causes people to be “self-focused, humility and love causes people to be others focused. Self-focused people are _____ to the needs of others.
- In Luke 22, Jesus just gets done telling them that one of them would betray Him, and just established the Lord's Supper. He described how His body would be broken and His blood shed for them. In the midst of that heavy message, what are the disciples arguing?
 - Luke 22:23–24 — 23;** *And they began to enquire among themselves, which of them it was that should do this thing. 24;* *And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest.*

5. Biblical Leadership leads by _____.

- A. _____ led by example.**
- How did Jesus exemplify servant leadership in the upper room in John 13?**
 - John 13:15** — *For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.*
 - Ephesians 5:2** — *And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.*
 - 1 Peter 2:21** — *For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:*
 - 1 John 2:6** — *He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.*
- B. _____ led by example.**
- 2 Timothy 3:10** — *But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience,*
 - 1 Corinthians 11:1** — *Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.*

- 3) Philippians 4:9** — *Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.*

6. Biblical leadership is _____ - Exalting

- A.** Biblical leadership is vertical in motive and horizontal in service. The motive of the Biblical leader is to glorify God supremely in everything and to love people sincerely through service.

- 1) Jeremiah 9:23-24** - *“Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: 24 But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.”*
- 2) 1 Corinthians 10:31** — *Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.*
- 3) 1 Peter 4:11** — *If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*
- 4) Ephesians 3:21** — *Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.*

- B.** Throughout Scripture, great leaders of God refused glory men sought to give them and rather reflected it back to God.

- 1) Peter (Acts 3:12-13, 4:12-16, 10:25-26); Paul (Acts 14:11-15); Joseph (Genesis 40:8, 41:16); Daniel (Daniel 2:28-30), John the Baptist (John 3:27-31)**
- 2) Acts 10:25-26** — *And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him. 26; But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man.*
- 3) Genesis 41:16** — *And Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, It is not in me: God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace.*
- 4) John 3:30** — *He must increase, but I must decrease.*
- 5) Galatians 6:14** – *“But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus.”*
- 6) 2 Corinthians 10:17** – *“But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.”*

- C. Because Biblical leaders seek God’s glory, they can overcome personal offenses.**

Self-Serving vs. Biblical Servant Leader Characteristics

by Steve Schulze ©2022 Sure Foundation Strategies LLC.

Self-Serving Leader	Biblical Servant Leader
Takes personal credit	Gives credit to others
Seeks personal success	Wants the team to succeed
Controls information	Shares information
Gives orders	Persuades others

Ego driven, power hungry	Empowers and values followers
Speaks first and dominates conversations	Listens and quietly observes
Intimidates others	Learns from others
Blames others for mistakes	Makes it safe to learn from mistakes
Arrogant and prideful	Humble and caring
Focuses on competence	Focuses on character
Easily angered	Controls temper
Holds grudges	Forgives others
Tolerates wrongdoing	Stands up and confronts wrong
Avoids menial work	No job is too small
Critical and tears down people	Prays for and builds up people
Position and status oriented	Caring and humble
Distant and aloof	Friendly and sociable
Short-term view	Provides a compelling vision
Selfish and unfriendly	Selfless and builds relationships

12 Characteristics of a Biblical Leader

2 Timothy 2

1. Genuine _____ for others – v. 1 “Thou therefore, my son...”

A. Example: The apostle Paul

- 1) 2 Corinthians 2:4** — *For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote unto you with many tears; not that ye should be grieved, but that ye might know the love which I have more abundantly unto you.*
- 2) Philippians 3:18** — *(For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:*
- 3) Acts 20:31** — *Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.*
- 4) In Romans 16**, Paul gives personal greeting to 33 people by name; often listing personal interaction with them.

B. Do people know you genuinely love them?

C. What can you do to show people you love them?

D. Love is an _____ not a feeling (1 Corinthians 13:1-8).

2. _____ -v.2b – “the things that thou hast heard of me...commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also”

A. Are you teachable?

B. Do you express the qualities that would make a Paul want to invest in you?

3. _____ - v.2b – “the things that thou hast heard of me...commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also”

A. 1 Timothy 1:12 — *And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;*

B. 2 Timothy 2:2 — *And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.*

C. As God’s stewards, we are _____ to be faithful.

- **1 Corinthians 4:2** - "Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful."

D. Faithfulness is _____ to find. (Proverbs 20:6)

- **Proverbs 20:6** - Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?

E. Unfaithfulness is very _____ (Proverbs 25:19)

- **Proverbs 25:19 — 19**; *Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint.*

F. Faithfulness is _____ by God (Matthew 25:21)

- **Matthew 25:21** - "His lord said unto him, Well done, *thou* good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord."

G. Faithfulness in the small areas of ministry is rewarded by being given greater responsibility in larger areas. On the other hand, unfaithfulness in small areas show someone is unable to be over larger areas of ministry.

- **Luke 16:10** – *"He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much."*

H. Are you faithful?

I. Can you be trusted with responsibility?

J. Are you dependable?

4. Have _____ v. 3- *"Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ."* (v.9-13)

A. Hebrews 5:8 — *Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;*

B. James 1:3-4 — *Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*

C. What would it take to make you quit?

D. What would it take for you to stop serving the Lord?

5. Understand _____ - v. 4 – *"No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."*

A. Philippians 3:7-8 — *But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,"*

B. For Peter, Andrew, James, and John to follow Jesus, what did they have to stop doing in Matthew 4:19-22? _____

C. Do you place ministry ahead of all other worldly matters?

D. Should anything in life be of higher priority to you then the ministry?

6. Real _____ - v. 5 – *"And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully."*

A. "strive for masteries" – speaks of competing in athletics (Olympian and Isthmian Games held in Corinth in those days); it speaks of determination, striving, hunger, pursuit of the victory.

B. Do you have a passion and hunger for the ministry?

7. _____ - **v. 6** – “*The husbandman (farmer) that laboreth must be first partaker of the fruits.*”

- A.** Farmers in those days worked long hours in all kinds of conditions hoping their labour would produce a good harvest. Here Paul challenges Timothy to be a hard worker just as a farmer knowing there is a harvest of souls (1 Cor. 3:6-7).
- B.** Stay busy, lazy people do not make it in the ministry....for long.
- C.** When God called Moses and David, they were tending sheep, Elisha was plowing a field, Peter, Andrew, James, and John were fishing or mending their nets, Levi was collecting taxes, even Saul was busy heading to Damascus to persecute Christians.
- D.** Are you a hard worker? Would others consider you a hard worker? Have you ever been commended for working hard?
- E.** God rebukes laziness (Prov. 6:9-10, 20:4, Eph. 4:28, 2 Thess. 3:10), and lazy people are ineffective in the ministry.

8. _____ - **v. 15** – “*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*”

- A.** Leaders never stop _____.
- B.** To grow a ministry, you must have a growing leader; when the leader stops growing the ministry will stop growing. You must be ahead of the curve.

9. _____ - **v. 19-22** (v.21b) “*...he shall be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, and meet for the master’s use.*”

- A.** Be a holy _____ man of God (Eph. 1:4, 1 Peter 1:15-16, Matt. 5:48)
- B.** Would your spouse consider you to be a man of God?
- C.** Would your closest friends consider you to be a man of integrity?
- D.** Would those closest to you consider you to be living a holy life?

10. _____ - **-minded – v. 24** – “*And the servant of the Lord...*”

11. _____ - **v. 25** – “*..but be gentle unto all men...in meekness...*”

- A. 2 Timothy 2:24-25** — *And the servant of the Lord must not strive; **but be gentle unto all men**, apt to teach, patient, **In meekness** instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;*
- B.** Avoid foolish debating.
 - 1) 2 Timothy 2:16** — *But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.*
 - 2) 2 Timothy 2:23** — *But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes.*

12. _____ - **v.25** – “*In meekness, instructing those that oppose themselves..*”

- A. Eph. 4:1-2, 1 Peter 5:5-6, Phil. 2:4-11, Matt. 20:25-28, John 13**
- B.** Faithfulness in ministry requires humility to work with people.

- C. One man said, “*humility is a magnet for the Holy Spirit*”. The soil of a humble leader will grow great fruit for God.
- D. **If you cannot be a good follower, you will not be a good leader.**
- E. *The 12 disciples could only lead as good as they could follow. From Joshua, to Elisha, to Timothy, humbly following a Moses, Elijah, or Paul is essential. Pride is the one thing that keeps a man from following.*
- F. **Ephesians 4:1-2** — *I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;*
- G. Lead from the _____; *Christianity is not a fight for the top, it is a fight for the bottom.*

Assignments:

- Study for test for next week.
- Turn in any unfinished assignments, due by next class.