

Excellence in Leadership

- Most church leadership is based on authority, that the leaders have authority over the members and the activities of the congregation or larger group.
 - All the passages in the New Testament which use the word “authority,” including those which have used other English words for the same Greek word.
 - Christians have authority over themselves. (1 Corinthians 8:9)
 - Christians have authority to eat the sacrifice (Hebrews 13:10)
 - Christians rule over the nations with Jesus (Revelation 2:26)
 - Christians have the authority to eat of the tree of life (Revelation 22:14)
 - Apostles have the right to be supported (1 Corinthians 9:4 – 18, 2 Thessalonians 3:9)
 - Apostles are the authorities of edification (2 Corinthians 10:8, 13:10)
 - Prophetesses were to wear head coverings to illustrate their submission (1 Corinthians 11:10)
 - “Power and authority” emphasizes the strength to enforce.
 - The 1 Corinthians 8:9 reference generally is translated “liberty” because “authority” in that place would have challenged existing church “authority.”
 - No one other than apostles were given authority in the church
 - People have a hard time conceiving of any organization that has no authoritative functions.
- Spiritual Leadership (Luke 22:26 – 27): Servant, lower position
 - 2 Timothy 2:24 – 26 Gentle, patient, humble
 - 1 Thessalonians 2:1 – 12 Gentle, nurturing, brotherly, encouraging, comforting, admonishing, no greed, no desire for praise
 - 1 Corinthians 2:3 – 5 Faith in the power of God
 - Ephesians 5:25 Gave Himself for her
 - John 13:3 – 20 Foot-washing scene
 - Mark 10:45, Matthew 20:28 The most successful leader of all time was a servant
 - Ephesians 1:15 – 19, Philippians 1:3 – 6, Colossians 1:3 – 6 Those farther along this path
 - Consensus, hearing from everyone (Acts 15)
 - Liberty
 - 1 Corinthians 9:19 Made myself a servant to all
 - 1 Corinthians 10:29 Why is my liberty judged by another’s conscience?
 - 2 Corinthians 3:17 Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.
 - Galatians 2:4 To spy out our liberty ... in Christ
 - All Christians should be taught to seek out those whose faith has a strong history, and follow them.
 - Hegemony – following another because it makes sense to do so. (Hebrews 13:7, 17, 24, 1 Thessalonians 5:12 – 15, Matthew 2:6, Luke 22:26, Acts 7:10, 14:12, 15:22)
 - Instructions to followers: Ephesians 5:21, Galatians 5:13, 1 Corinthians 12:12 – 31, 1 Peter 5:5
 - Commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also (2 Timothy 2:2).
 - You do not need that anyone teach you, but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things...you abide in Him (1 John 2:27).

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- In what ways does the body resemble Jesus? These topics should dominate our teaching.
 - Righteousness (Ephesians 4:20 – 24)
 - Holiness (1 Peter 1:13 – 16)
 - Love (1 John 2:6)
 - Unfading glory (2 Corinthians 3:18)
 - Evangelism (2 Corinthians 5:17 – 20)
 - Knowledge (Colossians 3:9 – 10)
 - Character (Romans 8:29)
 - Commitment (Romans 6:4)
 - Suffering (1 Peter 2:21 – 22)
 - Faith (Romans 3:26, 12:3, Revelation 14:12)
- When does the body resemble Jesus?
 - Hebrews 12:22 – 24 Past tense: the Christian audience of the first century already matched this description while living on earth.
 - 2 Peter 1:2 – 7 Obtaining the divine nature. If it were only future, then the diligence of v 5 – 7 would be meaningless.
- Motivations for good behavior:
 - We are the Temple of the living God (2 Corinthians 6:16 – 7:1)
 - Unrighteousness is not “fitting” (Romans 1:28, Galatians 5:1 – 14)
 - John 17:20 – 23 “That the world may believe that Thou sent Me”
 - Malice and wickedness spoils sincerity and truth (1 Corinthians 5:8)
 - Displaying the power of God (2 Corinthians 4:7)
 - Works of the flesh are contrary to the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:16 – 25, Colossians 2:18 – 3:10)
 - We are no longer slaves of sin (Romans 6:1 – 18, 8:13)
 - Everyone who has this hope purifies himself just as He is pure (1 John 3:3)
- How can we be prepared for God to provide the faith mentioned in Romans 12:3?
 - (Romans 16:17) Note those who cause divisions...and avoid them
 - (1 Corinthians 5:11) Do not keep company with “excuse makers”
 - (1 Corinthians 6:18 – 19) Flee immorality...You are the Temple of the Holy Spirit.
 - (1 Corinthians 10:11) These things happened to them as examples...
 - (1 Corinthians 10:14) Flee idolatry
 - (Philippians 3:17, Hebrews 13:7) Join in following my example, and note those who so walk
 - (Philippians 4:8) Let your mind dwell on these things: true, noble, just, pure, lovely...
 - (Colossians 3:1) Seek those things which are above
 - (Colossians 3:16) Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly
 - (1 Thessalonians 5:11) Comfort one another and edify one another
 - (1 Thessalonians 5:21) Test all things; hold fast what is good
 - (Hebrews 10:25) not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together
 - (Hebrews 12:14) Pursue peace with all men, and holiness.
 - (1 Peter 2:2) Long for the pure milk of the Word

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- Allegiance to one another (Romans 12 – 15) rather than to “the church.”
 - 12:3 Not to think too highly of oneself
 - 12:15 – 16 Rejoice together, weep together, associate with the humble, be humble
 - 12:18 Live peaceably
 - 13:10 Love does no harm
 - 14:1 – 23 Receive the weak in faith
 - 15:1 – 13 Please neighbors while building up, be like-minded
 - 1 Peter 4:8 Have fervent love for one another
- Allegiance to God rather than to “the church.”
 - “Whom do you trust? The God in heaven or the god behind the house.”
 - Galatians 3:2 Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law or by the hearing of faith?
 - Hebrews 10:19 – 25 (3:13)
 - Knowing and trusting His promises.
 - Confidence in redemption and forgiveness.
 - 2 Peter 1:2 – 11 Partakers of the divine nature
 - 1 Peter 2:2 Long for the pure milk of the Word
- Ephesians 4:12 – 16 Objectives of spiritual leaders
 - Equipping all for service
 - Building up the body
 - Unity (or Jesus’ proof failed)
 - Knowledge (1 Corinthians 12:8)
 - Consistent (or Jesus’ proof failed)
 - Fullness (Colossians 2:9 – 10)
 - Stability
 - The body edifying itself
- What do we all teach? (2 Corinthians 3:12 – 6:10)
 - (3:12 – 16) Our understanding never fades, but shines on outsiders constantly.
 - (3:17) We have liberty from hierarchy, sin, death...
 - (3:18) We see the character of Jesus developing.
 - (4:1) We receive mercy (so fix what ails them)
 - (4:3) Some will never see (Romans 1:24, Ephesians 4:17 – 19, 1 John 2:9 – 11)
 - (4:7) We demonstrate the power of God
 - (4:13) We have the same Spirit of faith as Jesus
 - (4:15) Gracious character promotes thanksgiving
 - (4:16) Hope
 - (4:18) Focus on the unseen.
 - (5:1 – 8) We earnestly desire to depart this life
 - (5:11) We fear for the destination of outsiders
 - (5:14) The love of Christ compels us
 - (5:16) We regard no one according to the flesh
 - (5:18 – 20) We are ambassadors for Christ
 - (6:3) Cause no blame to the ministry
- One-Another Attitude
 - Romans 15:14 Admonish one another
 - 1 Corinthians 11:17 – 34 The Lord’s Supper

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- 1 Corinthians 14:46 Let all things be done for edification
- 1 Corinthians 16:20 Greet one another with a holy kiss. (2 Corinthians 13:12, 1 Peter 5:14)
- Ephesians 5:19 Speaking to one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs
- Colossians 3:16 Teaching one another in songs and hymns and spiritual songs
- 1 Thessalonians 4:18 Comfort one another
- 1 Thessalonians 5:11 Therefore comfort one another and edify one another
- Hebrews 3:13 Exhort one another daily
- Hebrews 10:24 – 25 Stir up love and good works...exhorting one another
- James 5:16 Confess your trespasses to one another and pray for one another...
- 1 Peter 4:10 – 11 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.
- Ephesians 5:21 Submit to one another
- Our practices have essential purposes:
 - Singing: Romans 15:9 (2 Samuel 22:50) I will give thanks to you among the Gentiles...
 - Attendance: 2 Corinthians 14:26 Let all things be done for edification – to build faith
 - Sharing: 2 Corinthians 8:7 See that you abound in this grace [sharing] also.
 - Lord's Supper: 1 Corinthians 11:30 ...many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep.
 - Praying: 1 John 5:15 If we know that He hears us, whatever we ask...
- Character change is accomplished by the Spirit. How do we access that power to change?
 - Luke 11:13 Ask for the Spirit
 - Endeavor to be filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18): redeem the time (v16), understand the will of the Lord (v17), sing about God (v19), give thanks (v20), be subject to one another (v21).
 - Know the Word (2 Thessalonians 2:15)
 - Pray (Ephesians 2:18, 6:18, Romans 8:26)
 - Walk by the Spirit (Galatians 5:25)
 - Use God's power rather than ours (1 Peter 4:10 – 11)
- Those who lead by faith (Hebrews 13:7) grow faith. Important attitudes
 - Philippians 4:8, Colossians 3:1 Meditate on what is true, noble, just, pure...
 - Hebrews 12:14 Pursue peace with all men
 - Romans 16:17, 1 Corinthians 5:11, 1 Corinthians 6:18 – 19, 10:14 Avoid bad stuff
 - Philippians 2:4, Romans 15:2 Focus on the needs of others
 - Acts 17:11 These were more noble...searched the Scriptures daily to see if these things were true.
 - 2 Corinthians 4:13 I believed, therefore I spoke
 - Colossians 3:16 Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly
 - 2 Timothy 2:15 Rightly dividing the Word of truth
 - 2 Timothy 2:23 – 26 The Lord's bondservant ... must be able to teach ... in humility correcting those in opposition
 - 1 Peter 2:2 Long for the pure milk of the Word

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- Objectives of faith
 - Transformed into the image of Jesus (2 Corinthians 3:18, Romans 8:29)
 - At a rate God knows you can handle (1 Corinthians 10:13)
 - Faith develops into good character into love (2 Peter 1)
 - God adds faith as needed (Romans 12:3)
 - God adds gifts as needed (Ephesians 4:7, 1 Peter 4:10)
- Four Greek roots from which we get design, mimic, type, and graphic, 35 in all.
 - Avoid the bad behaviors which God judged: Jude 7, 2 Peter 2:6
 - Copy the suffering and patience of the faithful of old: James 5:10
 - Copy the behavior of Jesus:
 - 1 Timothy 1:16 Patience toward Saul (Paul)
 - John 13:1 – 17 Leaders serve
 - 1 Peter 2:21 How to handle suffering
 - Ephesians 5:1 Walk in love and sacrifice
 - Copy the behavior of Paul:
 - 2 Timothy 1:13 Sound words in faith and love
 - 2 Thessalonians 3:7, 9 Teachers ought to work
 - 1 Corinthians 4:16 Mimic Paul's teaching style
 - Philippians 3:17 Not considering the flesh, pressing upward, emphasizing unity.
 - General:
 - 1 Peter 3:13, 3 John 11 Imitate good
 - Hebrews 6:12, 13:7 Follow successful faith
 - 1 Thessalonians 1:6 – 7 Follow the power of the Spirit
 - 1 Thessalonians 2:14 Overcome suffering as the churches of Judea
 - 1 Corinthians 11:1 Follow Paul's teaching
 - 1 Timothy 4:12 Imitate Timothy's speech, conduct, love, spirit, faith, and purity.
 - 1 Peter 5:3 Willing, eager, often without pay
 - Titus 2:7 Imitate Titus' works, integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, and sound speech
 - Hebrews 12:1 – 2 Does not say "example," but...

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- How does one become a leader?
 - Not by authority. Each Christian has authority over himself (1 Corinthians 8:9)
 - Demonstrate the power of the Spirit by overcoming and transformation (1 Thessalonians 1:6 – 7)
 - Show successful faith (Hebrews 6:12, 13:7)
 - Service (John 13)
 - Patience (1 Timothy 1:16)
 - Note: doctrinal purity is subjective
- Does a lack of authority figures not create chaos in the church?
 - Natural leadership demands organization.
 - Leaders who stagnate should not be followed.
 - True leaders harmonize.
 - Leaders must trust followers.
 - Churches tend to focus on the building and the money. True leaders care little for either.
 - Natural leaders will become so frustrated by spiritual leaders that they will leave.
 - If you should lead, followers will follow.
- The leader's goals:
 - Depend on the Spirit
 - “Asking for the Spirit” Luke 11:13, Ephesians 5:18
 - What is the function of a facility?
 - Assembly ≠ worship
 - Cost effective?
 - What is the function of organization?
 - Communication between members (daily)
 - Necessary details
 - When God drops an opportunity in your lap, go...
 - Build up the faithful
 - Who will teach others also (2 Timothy 2:2)
 - Grow up (2 Peter 1) to be useful and fruitful
 - The assembly is for believers, not for evangelism
 - Teach:
 - Access to the indwelling Spirit
 - Promises
 - Our practices are illustrations, not objectives
 - Comfort, encourage, make joyful, be realistic
 - “Burst bubbles” gently and patiently
 - Priesthood of all believers
 - Not artificially through shared ignorance
 - All believers mediate between the world and God
 - Romans 12:1 Also, we are all sacrifices (celebrations of forgiveness) like Jesus.
 - Priests also answered questions and taught.
 - 1 Corinthians 14:26 Each came prepared.
 - Human training is a part of the work of the Spirit
 - My “gift” is what I formerly could not do, not what I was already talented to do.
 - Build fellowship around Christ

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- Fellowship is a connection between spirits without regard to location.
- Make Jesus on earth real as a model of the character we should have.
- Make the unseen God (Father, Son, Spirit, Word) real as in 2 Corinthians 4:16 – 18, 5:16.
- Connect all teaching to Jesus and the purpose of creation.
- All believers are connected through Jesus.
- Recognize our places in the body
 - The body includes all believers, living, deceased, and angelic (Hebrews 12:22 – 24).
 - The line is narrow between liberty and division.
 - How can I relate to the entire body?
 - The body is not an organization but spirits
 - The gospel is for individuals, not groups
 - Relate to those who cross your path.
 - 1 Corinthians 12:18 Have I chosen my own place or has God? How do I know my place?
- Build unity on the basis of love
 - Perhaps on the basis of faith (trusting God)?
 - We connect with others through Jesus based on God's recommendation, not because of affection
 - Fellow believers are family members.
 - The members of a congregation need to know each other and be involved in each other's lives to be a family.
 - Plan for and expect family loyalty
 - Be emotionally committed to the family.