

CHALLENGES 21st CENTURY LEADERS FACE

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Leaders have always faced leadership challenges. God, the first leader, was rebelled against by His children, Adam and Eve. Noah preached for years and could only get his family to respond. Moses was rejected time after time by his followers (Numbers 13 & 14). Jesus had those who turned and walked away (cf. John 6:34-67). Paul had the same problem with Demas and others.

Someone said, "Leadership would be easy if you didn't have to deal with people." But if there were no people you wouldn't need leadership. Here are some of the challenges 21st century leaders face. Notice they aren't "gigantic" but are the "little foxes" that make a difference in leadership.

1. Church leaders in the 21st century need to learn how to *speak the truth in love* (*Ephesians 4:15*) but also how to be firm when it is needed.
2. Leaders in the church of the 21st century need to learn how to be courageous (*Acts 4:11-13*) but not impolite.
3. Those who lead the church in the 21st century need to learn how to be gentle (*Matthew 5:1-2*) but not weak or timid.
4. Leaders in the church of the 21st century need to learn how to have godly pride but not arrogance (cf. *Obad. 3*)
5. Church leaders in the 21st century need to learn how to lighten up but not to the point of being foolish; humor is a great asset to leadership.
6. Those who led the church in the 21st century need to learn how to face reality but not to the point of becoming fearful (cf. *2 Timothy 1:7*).
7. Church leaders in the 21st century need to learn sound doctrine but not to the point of being dogmatic where the Bible is silent.
8. Leaders in the church of the 21st century need to learn how to be committed but not to the point of being closed minded.
9. Church leaders in the 21st century need to learn how to use the modern modes of technology but not to the neglecting of basic open Bible study (*2 Timothy 2:25*).
10. Those leading the church today in the 21st century must face discouragement but not to the point of giving up (cf. *1 Cor. 15:58*).

As the challenges come we must "hold to God's unchanging hand."