



7 Positive Leadership Lessons

J.J. Turner, Ph.D.

Lesson 1

RATING YOUR LEADERSHIP

Effective leadership relates to leaders knowing where they are at all times, not only with regard to work projects, but also in their personal leadership style and attitudes. Here is a brief leadership scale to help you rate where you presently are. On a scale of **1** to **10**, with **10** being the highest, rate your following leadership attributes and actions.

- ___1. I always set an example relative to what I ask others to do and be.
- ___2. I am always cheerful and optimistic about my leadership role in the church.
- ___3. I have a set of goals that I daily work on achieving for the Lord's work.
- ___4. I am known as an encourager of others.
- ___5. I have a list of people I am presently studying the gospel with.
- ___6. I am always open to considering new ideas; people feel free to come to me with suggestions and ideas.
- ___7. I always add a faith walk dimension to every plan.
- ___8. People feel at ease to come to me with problems. They know a care.
- ___9. I am a good listener and people recognize this quality in my leadership.
- ___10. I find it easy to forgive and move on with life.
- ___11. I am known to be a caring and loving leader.
- ___12. You have the attitude of Christ in every situation (cf. Phil. 2:5).

Application: How do you plan to use this lesson in your present leadership position? Have several people take a copy of this evaluation scale of rate you. What additional thoughts do you have about this lesson?

Lesson 2

THE KIND OF LEADERS GOD WANTS

Men have their list of qualifications for leaders, and many churches have their lists too. What does God desire? A study of Scriptures reveals He has always had a desire when it comes to His approved leaders. Jethro, Moses father-in-law, once gave the great leader a list of what God wanted in leaders at that time in Israel (cf. Ex. 18:7-27). These principles are still applicable today. Read the texts and you will see some of the following qualities:

1. These men were to be teachable (18:20a).
2. They must be able to follow examples (18:20b).
3. They take the assignments seriously (18:20c).
4. They must be capable men, not novices (18:21a).
5. They must reverence God (18:21b).
6. They must be trustworthy men (18:21c).
7. They hate dishonest gain (18:21d).
8. They will serve the people (“appoint them, 18:21e).
9. They will serve according to abilities (18:21f).
10. They will serve willingly (18:22a).
11. They are men who know how and when to refer to more competent leaders (18:22b).
12. They must be willing to share the work load (18:22c).

Application: God is still looking for the same kind of leaders today (cf. 1 Tim. 3:1-7; 2 Tim. 2:1-3; Eph. 4:11-16). How do you plan to use this lesson in your ministry? How close do you come to meeting these ancient leadership qualities? How can leaders apply these qualities today?

Lesson 3

WHERE ALL LEADERSHIP BEGINS

Many leaders are quick to assume a leadership position without being prepared. They have failed to learn this vital lesson: *All leadership begins with self-leadership*. The point being that if a man can't successfully lead himself, how can he lead people? This is why, for example, a deacon must first be *proven* (Tit. 3:10). This doesn't mean that there isn't any room for additional growth after becoming a leader, there is (Eph. 4:11-16). Here are some obvious signs that a leader has been leading himself in a successful manner:

1. He controls his tongue (Jas. 3:1,2).
2. He has his anger under control (Eph. 4:26, 27).
3. He is knowledgeable of God's word (Jno. 8:32).
4. He is self-disciplined (2 Pet. 1:5-7).
5. He loves and cares for his family (Eph. 5:25-6:4).
6. His mind is set on things above (Co. 3:2).
7. He has the attitude of Christ (Phil. 2:5).
8. He has his love priorities in order (Mk. 12:28-34).
9. He has the kingdom first in His life (Matt. 6:33).
10. He speaks the truth in love (Eph. 4:15).
11. He lets his light shine before others (Matt. 6:14-16).
12. He is faithful in all things (Rev. 2:10; Heb. 11:6).

Application: How do you plan to use this lesson in your leadership ministry? Before this lesson did you realize that all leadership begins with SELF-leadership?
How can you improve your self-leadership?

Lesson 4

CORE PURPOSE OF LEADERSHIP

It is essential to our study of leadership that we put first things first, make the main thing the main thing; and understand the *core* purpose of church leadership. While we may study hundreds of essential points on leadership, we must never lose sight that they are subservient to the major reason leaders lead God's people. ***The core purpose of Christian leadership is to GLORIFY God.*** Every task, plan, program or prayer, no matter how small or great, has as its prime motive the glorification of God. Each effort is a sacrifice from our hearts offered in His service, desirable of His approval. Therefore, at the beginning of any task we must ask and answer this question: *How will/can this glorify God?* Here are some key thoughts relative to glorifying God in leadership:

1. *To Him be glory in the church* (Eph. 3:21).
2. We must do all in His name (By His authority) (Col. 3:7).
3. *We are his creation, created for good works* (Eph. 2:10).
4. We are stewards entrusted with His work (1 Cor. 4:1, 2).
5. We are commissioned to represent Him by preaching the gospel (Matt. 28:18-20).
6. We are partners with God in the ministry (1 Cor. 3:9).
7. God empowers us to do His work (Eph. 3:20).
8. He will one day say *Well done good and faithful servant.*
9. We are yoked with Christ; this is an assurance of success (Matt. 11:28-30).
10. We will one day be rewarded for our faithfulness as workers with God (Rev. 2:10).
11. God has placed leaders in the church to train and equip His people for ministry (Eph. 4:11-16).
12. Leaders who glorify God, daily renew their minds and commitments (Rom. 12:1,2; Col. 3:2).

Application: Can you think of additional ways leaders glorify God through their leadership? How is your work as a leader bringing God glory? What additional observations do you have? How do you plan to use this lesson in your ministry?

Lesson 5

THE ESSENCE OF LEADERSHIP

One of Webster's definitions of **essence** is, *the inward nature of anything underlying its manifestations; true substance*. Leadership has an essence. Like a rare gem, leadership is made up of many facets. These are the many qualities relating to leadership. Here are some of the qualities that make up the essence of leadership:

1. The essence of leadership is to glorify God (Eph. 3:21).
2. Leadership is the ability to influence people in a positive way.
3. Leadership is the ability to achieve results that are approved by God.
4. Leadership is being an example to followers (1 Tim. 4:12).
5. Leadership involves being a person of genuine character.
6. Leadership is being a servant of others (mk. 10:45).
7. Leadership centers in having a vision for the future which is also God's vision (Isa. 2:2-4).
8. Leadership involves an impeccable integrity.
9. Leadership is tied to what you say and do.
10. Leadership is the ability to inspire and teach others (2 Tim. 2:1-3).
11. Leadership is being out front blazing the trail for followers. It is walking by faith.
12. Leadership is having courage in every situation to do God's will.
13. Leadership involves dynamic communication skills.
14. Leadership is commitment to a cause until completed (Rev. 2:10).
15. Leadership is guided by a spiritual mindset (Phil. 2:5-8; Col. 3:2).
16. Leadership is knowing what to do and how to take action.
17. Leadership requires developing trust.
18. Leadership requires close fellowship with each follower.
19. Leadership involves the ability to lead self and be a "doer of the word" (Jas. 1:18-23).
20. Leadership is the results of being driven by a Christ-like attitude (Phil. 2:5-8).
21. Leadership centers in truly caring for those who are following.
22. Leadership requires deep and abiding love for God, His work and people.

Application: How do you demonstrate these qualities in your leadership? Is there proof they exist in your life? How do you plan to use this lesson in your ministry? What additional observations do you have?

Lesson 6

LEADERS WHO DARE TO BE DIFFERENT

The title of this lesson infers there is something wrong with the sameness approach taken by many leaders in their leadership roles in the church, or there is a status quo that needs to be abandoned, which will take a new kind of leadership mindset.

When a church is in a rut, dying or only keeping the doors open, it should be apparent something different needs to be done by leaders. Leaders who dare to be different have several qualities that earmark their style of leadership:

1. They are not bound by an attitude of fear or frightened by need for changes (2 Tim. 1:7; Rev. 21:8).
2. They are courageous; sold on being bold (Acts 4:11-13).
3. They believe they CAN DO, and must do, what God has commanded (Phil. 4:13).
4. They avoid a democratic approach to making decisions (i.e., everybody has a vote—majority rule).
5. They adhere to biblical authority and teaching in their decisions (2 Pet. 1:3; 2 Tim. 3:15-17).
6. They practice the Great Commandment to love God, others and self (Mk. 12:28-34).
7. They set goals, timelines and take action to reach them (Phil. 3:12-14).
8. They make God's vision their vision (Isa. 2:2-4; Eph. 1:3-7; Mk. 16:15, 16).
9. They teach and help followers develop ministry skills (Eph. 4:11-16).
10. Leaders who dare to be different are prayer warriors (1 Thess. 5:17). Every decision is made out of a season of prayer.
11. They are full of passion and enthusiasm for God's work and inspire others to be like them (Phil. 4:9).
12. They communicate effectively and are open for feedback (Eph. 4:15; Jas. 1:19).
13. They have a positive spiritual attitude (Col. 3:2; Rom. 12:1, 2).
14. Leaders who dare to be different have the attitude of Christ in every situation (Phil. 2:5-8).
15. They never quit or even think about quitting (Rev. 2:10).

Application: What is different about your leadership style today than it was in the past? Why do you need to make some changes in your leadership approach? What was the most important point to you in this lesson? How do you plan to use this lesson? What additional observations do you have?

Lesson 7

12 THINGS LEADERS NEED

What are some of the essential qualities needed by effective leaders? The answer depends on the context of the question. After years of leadership study and experience as a leader, I have concluded that Christian leaders need the following 12 basic qualities:

1. A clear vision of where they are going (Isa. 2:2-4).
2. Specific results identified (Mk. 1:38).
3. A detailed plan of action for reaching results.
4. A definite timeline for proceeding.
5. Commitment to objectives (Matt. 16:24).
6. The attitude of Christ (Phil. 2:5-9).
7. Prayers for wisdom and guidance (Jas. 1:3-5).
8. Courage to overcome opposition (2 Tim. 1:7).
9. Love for followers (Jno. 13:32-35).
10. The ability to be flexible.
11. Education in God's words and methods for growth (2 Tim. 2:15).
12. Spirituality expressed in spiritual skills (Rom. 12:1, 2).

Application: As you examine your leadership style, how many of these 12 qualities do you have in your approach to leadership? Which ones are you weak in? Why? What do you plan to do with this lesson? When?

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