

The Responsibility Of Leadership

All of human history shows that the people are, or soon will be, what their leaders are.

Leaders set the moral standards and pace of the people.

The public is never capable of acting on mass, without a head anybody is powerless, always someone must lead.

Even the mob engaged in pillage and murder is not the disorganised thing it at first appears to be. Somewhere behind the violence is a leader whose ideas the mob is simply putting into effect.

People may rebel against their leaders but the rebellions were not spontaneous. The people merely switched to a new leader and followed them.

The simple point is, people always have to have a leader.

It is not complementary to the masses of people that they are so easily led in a different direction, but history shows it is true.

As with all articles on this website, we are concerned for the truth.

The truth is that religious people also follow leaders.

The recorded history of Israel shows clearly “like priest, like people.” This is demonstrated again and again in religious history.

Today Christianity in the western world is what its leaders were in the recent past and is becoming what its present leaders are.

The local church fellowship soon becomes like its pastor.

The strong-minded leader of a local fellowship who succeeds in influencing the group through Bible teaching or frequent impromptu talks in the public gathering is the pastor, no matter how earnestly they may deny it.

The poor condition of Christian churches today may be traced straight to their leaders.

When, as sometimes happens, the members of a local church rise up and reject their pastor for preaching the truth, they are still following a leader.

Behind the congregation’s act is sure to be found a carnal and often well-to-do person who usurps the right to determine who the pastor should be and what he should preach.

In such cases the ordained pastor is unable to lead the flock and a pitiful situation results.

What can contribute to bad spiritual leadership? –

1) Intellectual pride –

Unfortunately there is, in religious circles, a cult of intelligentsia who consider that only a pastor with university degrees is fit to be a pastor.

Such a church is overlooking what was said of the apostles Peter and John.

Acts 4:13 [New King James] *“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that **they were uneducated and untrained men**, they marvelled. And they realised that they had been with Jesus.”*

The key to their bold presentation of the truth was **not** their education but the time they had spent with Jesus Christ.

2) **Absence of true spiritual experience –**

No person can lead another farther than they themselves have gone. For many pastors this explains their failure to lead; they do not know where and how to lead the congregation.

John 16:13 [New King James] *“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.”*

Only an active Holy Spirit in their lives can guide them into the true way every Christian should be taking.

Galatians 5:22-26 [New King James] *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.”*

Only when these “fruits” are being developed in leaders can they pastor their congregation in the right direction.

Note we have to follow the lead of the Holy Spirit, [verse 25] otherwise the results will be bad for the congregation, [verse 26].

3) **Inadequate preparation –**

Only many hours spent in the presence of the Holy Spirit revealing the Word of God to the pastor will he be fit to lead the people.

This will only be beneficial to the congregation if the pastor has the mind of a servant, [Matthew 20:28] that is the mind of Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ is both Head of the Church, [Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 1:22] but humble servant of the Church, [Philippians 2:5-7].

Ambition – When Jesus Christ is **not** all in all to a pastor and he sees himself as a bonds slave of Jesus Christ as did the apostles who introduced themselves as “servants” of Christ – Greek word used is “*dōulōs*” meaning bonds slave, one purchased by Jesus Christ, [Acts 20:28].

See the following scriptures: **Romans 1:1; James 1:1; 2 Peter 1:1; Jude 1; Revelation 1:1.**

But in seeking a higher place for himself in church circles, he will lead the people where he knows they want to go, instead of where scripture tells him they should be going.

Thus he will avoid offending anyone and give the appearance of being a bold leader, assuring preferment when a bigger church or high office becomes available.

Philippians 2:3-4 [New King James] *“Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.”*

This is not how such a pastor is living his life if it is full of personal ambition.

The rewards of godly leadership are great but the responsibilities of a spiritual leader are so heavy that no-one can afford to take the matter lightly, [James 3:1; Psalms 19:13-14].