

Principles Of Leadership

1 Peter 2:9 [NIV] *“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”*

The Creator God is preparing Christians in each generation to become priests and leaders.

Priests in Christ’s time on earth were trained to be teachers of God’s Word, and leaders in the local community.

This same tradition has been carried into the Christian Church.

2 Timothy 1:13-14 [NIV] *“What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you, guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.”*

Paul reminds Timothy of his responsibility to give sound teaching of what had been received from Jesus Christ.

2 Timothy 2:2 [NIV] *“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.”*

Timothy was to prepare others to also become teachers and leaders.

Remember, every teacher is a leader and every leader is a teacher.

Jude 3 [NIV] *“Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints.”*

Jude reminded Christians to qualify to content what false teachers were trying to bring to those who were being called to become disciples of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 3:15 [NIV] *“But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,”*

Every Christian should be able to expound the faith that they have in Jesus Christ as their Saviour and the reason why humans exist.

Revelation 1:4-6 [NIV] *“John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and **has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father**, to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.”*

A family of priests, that is teachers and leaders at the return of Jesus Christ to this earth.

With the above in mind I would like to consider four characteristics of a leader, principles that can help us to learn to be good leaders right now.

1) A good leader is committed to do what is right –

This world has in the past and still today plenty of bad leaders.

Leaders who convince others to do what people, deep down, know is wrong and will hurt other people.

That is leadership but **not** the kind that will benefit those they lead and is abhorrent to our Creator God. [**Proverbs 6:16-19**]

God is seeking people whom He can trust to do what is in harmony with His way of love that will always be beneficial to others.

Leaders who will be examples to others as to how we should live as created children of our Heavenly Father.

Deuteronomy 17:18-19 [NIV] *“When he takes the throne of his kingdom, he is to write for himself on a scroll a copy of this law, taken from that of the priests, who are Levites. It is to be with him, and he is to read it all the days of his life so that he may learn to revere the LORD his God and follow carefully all the words of this law and these decrees”*

Leaders in the nation of ancient Israel were commanded to personally write out the law and statutes and study them on a daily basis.

Every leader within God’s present and future kingdom, must be well versed with God’s Word, the Christian Bible, and use it as the basis of all decisions they make as leaders and teachers.

Revelation 20:11-12 [NIV] *“Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.”*

This is the ultimate teaching and leadership job that all Christians of every generation will eventually face.

This is the resurrection back to physical life all the billions of human beings who have lived and died, never even hearing of their only Saviour Jesus Christ. Never knowing the existence of the Christian Bible or never really understanding what it reveals about human life.

Every leader whom the Creator God will use now and in the future must submit their will to that of our Creator God.

Luke 22:42 [NIV] *“Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.”*

Jesus Christ as the Son of Man was the perfect living example of this submission. [John 4:34]

Romans 12:1-2 [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

It is out of gratitude for what God has done for us through Jesus Christ that we willingly submit ourselves as a “*living sacrifice*” to our Creator God. Then allow Him, through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, to renew our minds to become in total harmony with His.

Only with such trustworthiness will the Creator God use us as leaders in His created family.

2) A good leader is decisive –

1 Kings 18:21 [NIV] *“Elijah went before the people and said, “How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him.” But the people said nothing.”*

Elijah was directing the people to be decisive and stick to the right decision. [**Matthew 6:24**]

James 1:5-8 [NIV] *“If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.”*

Wisdom is needed for a leader to make the right decision, and true wisdom is **only** found within God’s Word, the Christian Bible.

Luke 14:28-29 [NIV] *“Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him,”*

Being decisive does **not** mean being impulsive in the decisions we make as leaders and by our example teach others.

We need to set aside time to consider the matter in hand, to ensure that the right decision is made, one we can stick with.

We need to consider the consequences of what we are about to say or do.

My physical father taught me never to buy anything from a salesman, always take details and samples then *“sleep on it,”* telling the salesman to call back in a day or two.

Very often this led to a better deal being offered.

Part of being decisive is not just saying the words but also moving into action.

Implement the decision, get to work on it.

If you find yourself delaying the implication of the decision, ask why.

What am I waiting for?

Do I need more information and where do I get it from?

Should I ask someone about this situation?

After this extensive research, ensuring what you are about to do is right, make the decision and stick with it.

Joshua 24:14-15 [NIV] *“Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshipped beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”*

Joshua, as leader of Israel, made a firm decision. He was not afraid to be decisive and was a good example for the whole nation.

3) A good leader and teacher works with a plan –

1 Corinthians 14:40 [New Jerusalem Bible] *“But make sure that everything is done in a proper and orderly fashion.”*

1 Corinthians 14:33 [NIV] *“For God is not a God of disorder but of peace. As in all the congregations of the saints,”*

God is **not** disordered but has a master plan for all humanity. [**Genesis 1:26**]

James 3:13-17 [NIV] *“Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you harbour bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.”*

Where there is disorder we can be sure there is satanic influence, for Satan did **not** plan what he did from the beginning, **not** anticipating what would be the outcome of his rebellion against his Creator.

A good leader and teacher will think ahead to foresee what will be needed. Plan in advance how to solve problems that might arise.

This plan needs to be written down or firmly fixed in your heads.

If a leader does **not** have such a plan, chaos and confusion may be the end result.

Every leader needs to have their eyes fastened on a goal, a vision.

All young people need to plan for the major parts of their lives, such as finances, education, careers, social skills and preparation for marriage.

The practice you get in small projects will help you create workable plans for these major goals.

Successful plans for careers and families will help you be a leader throughout life.

4) A good leader will be willing to bear the burden of leadership –

Proverbs 12:24 [NIV] *“Diligent hands will rule, but laziness ends in slave labour.”*

To lead, you need to be diligent, to stick to your commitment to do what is right.

Leadership is a full-time job, you have to work hard at it to be successful.

A leader is one who sets the pace.

A leader is **not** afraid to take up the challenge.

A leader has to do a lot of work behind the scenes, work that nobody is going to thank them for, for they don't know it was done.

A leader must be willing to work to help others do what is best for them, even if not for themselves.

Luke 22:25-26 [NIV] *“Jesus said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves.”*

A true leader considers themselves as a servant to those they lead and are responsible for.

A leader does **not** necessarily do what others want, but what is right and will help others the most.

Luke 16:10-12 [NIV] *“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?”*

If we are faithful with the kind of leadership we have been studying then God will entrust us with greater leadership and teaching in the future Kingdom of God.

1 Timothy 4:12 [NIV] *“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.”*

Don’t allow your age to stop you from starting to become a good example to others by being willing to lead in a way that helps others.

Serving others **not** just yourself.

There is always a great need for true leaders.

If you have the courage to make the right decisions, that are in harmony with the Creator God’s Word, the Christian Bible, and stand by them.

Then you have what it takes to develop into a true and strong leader.