

Principles of godly leadership

Scripture: 1 Timothy 3:1 *It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do.*

Introduction:

How would you describe leadership in America as a whole? Lately I've been watching the news about how much our country is in debt, how jobs are hard to come by, how gang violence is rampant....and so on & so on. As I considered who we have been in the past and what we have now become, I can't help but know that leadership is part of the issue.

In preparing for this lesson I read a bunch of notable quotes about leadership on the internet. An interestingly enough all the great leaders of the past and present have tried with much vigor to explain what good leadership is.

However, after reading these quotes from FDR to Churchill an everybody in-between the greatest truth I could find is that while all these guys certainly have a clue about some angels of leadership they all fall miserably short in understanding the whole of it.

One of the best summations that I found was by a little known man, Myron Rush who identifies tough issues facing every Christian leader in *The New Leader*. We are wise to ponder them slowly.

- You must be willing to stand alone.
- You must be willing to go against public opinion
- You must be willing to risk failure.
- You must become master of your emotions.
- You must strive to remain above reproach.
- You must be willing to make decisions others don't want to make.
- You must be willing to say no at times, even when you'd like to say yes.
- You must sometimes be willing to sacrifice personal interests for the good of the group.
- You must never be content with the average; you must always strive for the best.
- People must be more important to you than possessions.
- You will have to work harder to keep your life in balance than people do who are not leaders.

Paul Borthwick, Leading the Way, Navpress, 1989, pp. 177-178.

Transitional Statement:

Today I would like to try to figure out how God would define leadership.

I. From the book of Genesis

A. Adam...Gen chapter 3

1. A godly leader should care deeply about keeping God's commands
 - a. Making them a priority in his life
2. He should help others away from sin
3. He should be a brother's keeper to answer Cain's question

B. Able....Gen chapter 4

1. A godly leader finds out what is pleasing to GodHeb 11:4
 - a. He took the time to make his life about God,...not God about his life

C. Noah....Gen chapters 6-9

1. A godly leader follows God's desires even when he doesn't understand them or even think that they are possible.
2. He does right even when in the extreme minority

D. Abraham....Gen chapters 12-24

1. Godly leaders trust in God
 - a. He trusted in God to leave his home and country (Ur of the Chaldeans)
 - b. Trusted God to deliver him a son....when wife was barren
 - Then was willing to sacrifice IsaacGen chapter 22
 - c. He made trust his anchor...Heb 6:9
 - Showing us, in the NT, the path to righteousness....Gal.
 - d. Without faith it is impossible to please God....Heb 11:6
2. Heb 11:8-10 says that Abraham was looking for a city with foundation whose architect and builder was God.
 - a. He lived as a stranger / alien / or pilgrim on earthHeb 11:9
 - b. Recognizing that his citizenship was in heaven ...Phil 3:20
3. Abraham comes to the aid of his nephew Lot
 - a. He doesn't cower under fear
 - b. And you can count on him

4. Abraham took covenant with God very seriously

E. Sarah.....Gen chapter 18

1. Even though we remember that she laughed out of doubt that Isaac would be born.
 - a. Heb 11:11 shows us that she, in a principle of godly leadership, overcame that doubt.

F. Jacob.....Gen chapters 27-50

1. With his uncle Laban doesn't get mad, but lets God set things straight
2. At Bethel, Jacob sees a latter between earth and heaven...Gen chapter 28
 - a. Leaders realize that this connection between heaven and earth is Jesus
1 John 1:51

G. Tamar....Gen chapter 38

1. Godly leaders are serious about fulfilling God's design and desire
2. Judah's son Er was wicked and God put him to death
 - a. So His next son Onan was instructed to be the kinsman redeemer, but would not fulfill his duty, so God killed him also
 - b. Judah then promises next son to fulfill this duty....but reneges on it.
 - c. So Tamar plays the harlot and to get Judah to fulfill God's design.

-And finds herself in the lineage of JesusMatthew chapter 1

H. Joseph.....Gen chapters 37-50

1. In Egypt a godly leader is seen to do the right thing even when no one is watching..... (Potaphar's house)
2. He understood the greater picture of God's work....Gen 50:20
3. As a godly leader he embraced forgiveness

II. Exodus through Deuteronomy

A. Israel as a nation....Ex chapters 1-2

1. Born as spiritual leaders in humility in Egypt
2. Were good givers for building of the tabernacle...Lev 27:30-34
 - a. Do not rob God.... Mal 3:8
 - b. Cheerfully....2 Cor 9:7

B. Moses.....Exodus – Deut.

1. Made time for & listened to God at the burning bush
2. Willing to step up to a plate that he really didn't want to
3. Trusted God with his life when he returned to Egypt
4. Humble man...Numbers 12:3
5. Doesn't lead in his own way
 - a. Meribah striking the rock instead of speaking to it...Numbers 20:11
6. Endures the grumbling and whining of God's people
 - a. Even the rejection of God's people...Acts 7:25
7. Makes God his banner...Ex 17:15
8. Doesn't try to do it all himself ...Ex chapter 18
9. Won't go where God isn't going....Ex 33
10. Goes to bat for God's people pleading to God on their behalf.
11. Follows God's leadership, watching the pillar of cloud and fire Numbers 9:21
12. Concerned about his godly work long beyond his own year... Numbers 27.16
13. READ:

Hebrews 11:24-25

24 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, 25 choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin,

C. Levites / Chosen race, royal priesthood, and holy nation of 1 Peter 2:9

1. Understands that their possession is in God
2. Doesn't change / or add to God's commands.
 - a. Nadab and Abihu ...Lev chapter 10
-But honors God
3. Leader of devotion / purity / holiness
 - a. Celebrates God in 3 feasts (Unleavened bread, harvest, ingathering)
Ex 23-24
4. Understands Atonement...Lev chapter 16
 - a. The scope of forgiveness ...Eph 1:7
 - b. The necessity of confessionLev 5:1-6
5. Stops the spread of un-cleanliness (Mold)....Lev chapter 14

D. Aaron

1. Keeps godly order....Ex 32:24
 - a. People making golden calf
 - b. Good order....1 Cor 14:40

E. Caleb & Joshua

1. 2 Faithful spies @ Kadesh-Barnea
 - a. Faced stoning by congregation until God intervened....Numbers 14:10
2. Served God whole heartedly....Deut 1:34-40

F. Phinehas, the son of Eleazar the high priest after Aaron

1. During the Balaam scandle (Numbers 22, & 31:16 an Israelite man name Zimri in open rebellion brought a midianite woman into God's camp.
 - a. Phinhas was so jealous for God that he ran them both through with a spear.

-God was pleased

G. The whole book of Deut stands as a point of leadership

1. Because it is a reminder from Moses of Israels past
2. Rev chapter 2 says that the Ephesian church had forgotten the important matters and needed to remember them again.
 - a. Leaders don't forget the past

-Tassels....Numbers 15:38-39

-Ebenezer's...1 Samuel 7:12

-Lord's supper...1 Cor 11:25

H. Leaders listen obediently to God

1. Deut 11:13

I. Leaders make God's word the center of their life

1. Deut 6:6-9

J. Leaders understand that God will test us.

1. Deuteronomy 13:1-4

" If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, 2 and the sign or the wonder comes true, concerning which he spoke to you, saying, ' Let us go after other gods (whom you have not known) and let us serve them,' 3 you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams; for the LORD your God is testing you to find out if you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. 4 " You shall follow the LORD your God and fear Him; and you shall keep His commandments, listen to His voice, serve Him, and cling to Him.

a. Verse 5 goes on to say that they must be exposed

-Matching Paul's words to the Ephesians....Eph 5:11

b. **Also here we see the truth that an open door does not necessarily point to God's will.**

K. Leaders don't act like the culture around them....Deut 18:9

L. Leaders don't worship god in other peoples ways...Deut 12:1-5

M. Leaders understand where their help comes from....READ

Deuteronomy 33:26

*26 " There is none like the God of Jeshurun,
Who rides the heavens to your help,
And through the skies in His majesty.*

N. Leaders know when to cut someone off and get away from them...Numbers 15:30

1. The idea of dis-fellowship when rebellion and division is present

a. 1 Cor 5:17 & Titus 3:10-11

Conclusion:

I've got a great idea....how about the church teaching the world what godly leadership is through biblical principles.