

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: [Luke 22:14](#).
- B. The listing of the gifts in 1Cor. 12 and Eph. 4 is so that the church may edify itself as to help carry out its function of making disciples.
- C. Edifying itself is not the function of the church, but the way the church readies and builds itself to carry out the function: we are built up not only for the benefit of being built up, but for the benefit of others.

FIVE PRINCIPLES OF LEADERSHIP.

- A. Qualifications.
 1. The most important criteria for leadership. When a person has the qualifications to be a leader he can do the leading. The Bible does not normally speak of a person having the ability to do something as much as having the qualifications to do some (1Tim. 3:1-8).
 2. Anyone put in a place of leadership will lead- in a right way or a wrong way. We need correct leaders and leadership. When one talks about qualifications for elders he speaks of some 20 things, 18 of which deal with character and reputation.
 3. Acts 6 gives the bottom line of qualifications (show leadership in that area of work) for anyone to do an appointed work in the church:
 1. Full of the spirit.
 2. Full of wisdom.
 3. Full of faith.
 4. Spiritual qualifications are the most important for any work in the church.
- B. The true test is not quantity of followers but quality of leadership.
 1. Some in the church have said, "We can't be all wrong because look how many people are following us." But this is a fallacy of Biblical leadership. They may be leaders but it could be an absolute proof that he is not the kind of leader he should be. Jesus put Himself in the midst of people rather than at the head. He was more interested in having people evangelize the world than leading multitudes. Especially in the context of religion (since most people are followers anyway) it is somewhat easy to become a leader. (Example: Jim Jones).
 2. Paul instructed churches and individuals and asked them to follow his example, but only so far as to quickly be able to lead others separated from his example. When they have seen beyond Paul to X, and not from him.
 3. There is a difference between lordship and leadership. Jesus is the only Lord, and we are leaders. If we become lords we are no longer Biblical leaders and have usurped the authority of Christ.
- C. Multiple leadership is the NT principle.
 1. That elders who rule well know the attitude of the congregation so well that when they make a majority decision in a meeting they express the will of the congregation. (This is in matters of opinion only.) This is not lording it over the flock.
 2. This means that leadership in the eldership will be such that based on knowing the flock as to what the flock needs and how the flock will go they make decisions and lead the flock in a way which already expresses the will of the flock.
 3. This does not mean the congregation has vote or that the congregation has the right to change Biblical precedent. But in a matter of expending, elders do not necessarily have the right to decide something against the will of the church. To decide such would be a lording it over flock. An example of this is Acts 6 when the leadership (the apostles) made a decision and with it pleased the whole congregation (6:5). Good leadership will please the multitude whenever possible, because people cannot be ruled or led against their will.

4. One man rule or minority rule is a violation of principle of leadership.
- D. Leaders are to primarily fulfill a pastoral role.
1. This means shepherding and teaching.
 - a. Elders to instruct, feed, tend, and pastor the flock (Ac. 20:28; 1Pet. 5:2).
 - b. An elder should be apt to teach (1Tim. 3:2).
 - c. An elder is to exhort in sound doctrine and refute those who contradict (Ti. 1:9).
 - d. An elder is a shepherd (see Jn. 10:1-5). The shepherd is to know the sheep, call them by name and the sheep follow because they know his voice.
 2. Remember an elder is God's steward in charge of the people, a caretaker of the flock before God. (Ti. 1:7; Heb. 13:17). I wonder how the 23rd Psalm would read with the name of an elder in place of the Lord?
 3. Four roles of a good shepherd:
 - a. Knows his sheep by name.
 - b. Calls them out.
 - c. Goes before them.
 - d. Lays down his life for them.
 4. A leader never just sends advice, but tends to the people sharing what he has. He is a "sheep-centered" man. If we are not teaching others we are not leading them properly. Jesus as a teacher is a great leadership study.
- E. A spiritual leader must establish priorities.
1. An example is Ac. 6:1-5 because the leaders (apostles) think through and apply priorities. Jesus has given great permission to do benevolence (Mt. 26:11). This is called the great permission (Jas. 1:27).
 2. But we do not have a great permission to do evangelism and teaching we have a commission (command). We must prioritize our leading. Acts 6 says the leaders tended to the great commission (prayer and ministry of the word, see Ac. 6:2,4) first and then other things second.
 3. A good leader will delegate the work load. In Ac. 6 notice that if the apostles waited tables then seven qualified men would do nothing!
 4. The good leader longs for is the day that "his Timothy" becomes a leader himself. The elders will appoint leaders as the congregation chooses them.
 5. A leaders work is spelled out in general terms, not specifics. Six things:
 - a. Shepherd.
 - b. An example.
 - c. Manage the church.
 - d. Teach the word.
 - e. Refute the false teachers.
 - f. Care for the sick.

There are many specifics that can be listed under each one of the above.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Leadership is a possibility for each member of the body of X, but a must for elders, deacons and preachers.
- B. May those in leadership positions strive to put these principles into their lives.
- C. There are two more lessons on this subject yet to come.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.