

The Need

*“There go the people.
I must follow them,
because I am their leader.”*

Prof. Gordon Fee (in reference to the quality of U.S. Presidential Candidates)

(Deuteronomy 10:11 NCV) The LORD said to me, "Go and lead the people so that they will go in and take the land I promised their ancestors."

(2 Chr 1:10 NCV) "Now give me wisdom and knowledge so I can lead these people in the right way, because no one can rule them without your help."

King Solomon

Leaders are mature Christians. Mature Christians are always going to lead in some capacity. In this sense, leadership is not just about a ministry with followers, but about establishing an example to be followed.

A mature Christian is someone who _____ others into _____

This can be _____, or it can be _____.

"I am wisdom, and I am smart. I also have knowledge and good sense...Princes use me to lead, and so do all important people who judge fairly."

Proverbs 8:12, 16

(Prov 16:29 NCV) Cruel people trick their neighbors and lead them to do wrong.

(Jer 50:6 NCV) "My people have been like lost sheep. Their leaders have led them in the wrong way and made them wander around in the mountains and hills. They forgot where their resting place was."

Influenced

We are _____ to be influenced, and we continue to be influenced all our lives.

In fact we _____ influencing.

Ultimately our greatest influencing should come from _____ -

(Psa 119:35-36 NCV) Lead me in the path of your commands, because that makes me happy. Make me want to keep your rules instead of wishing for riches.

(John 16:13 NCV) But when the Spirit of truth comes, he will lead you into all truth. He will not speak his own words, but he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is to come.

Because people are created to be influenced, God has ordained _____ leadership. (Romans 12:8; Eph. 4:11).

Mature Christians are not just an influence in the _____, they are also an influence in the _____ - _____ as well.

(Psa 47:9 NCV) The leaders of the nations meet with the people of the God of Abraham, because the leaders of the earth belong to God. He is supreme.



A godly leader exerts godly influence.

The Lack

Estimates vary on how many Christians are actually involved in active ministry. Some say its only 10%, others claim it could be as high as 20% of a congregation are involved in a ministry within their church.

Service or “ _ _ _ _ _ ” is an unavoidable step in the path of Christian maturity. Yet too few believers plunge themselves into a committed ministry. God is looking for people with the maturity to influence others toward godliness

In the Old Testament-

(Isa 56:10-11 NCV) The leaders who are to guard the people are blind; they don't know what they are doing. All of them are like quiet dogs that don't know how to bark. They lie down and dream and love to sleep. They are like hungry dogs that are never satisfied. They are like shepherds who don't know what they are doing. They all have gone their own way; all they want to do is satisfy themselves.

The typical pattern of leadership in the Old Testament was where the leader became _ _ _ _ _ .

Eventually the leadership of Israel became so bad that God _ _ _ _ _ them from their land.

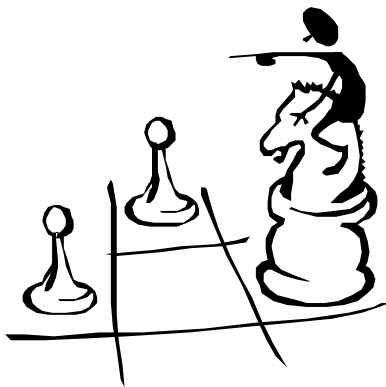
In the New Testament-

(Mat 9:36-37 NCV) When he saw the crowds, he felt sorry for them because they were hurting and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Jesus said to his followers, "There are many people to harvest but only a few workers to help harvest them."

Christ lamented the _____ of *godly* leadership.

Paul warned against _____ leadership -

(Acts 20:28 NCV) Be careful for yourselves and for all the people the Holy Spirit has given to you to care for. You must be like shepherds to the church of God, which he bought with the death of his own son. I know that after I leave, some people will come like wild wolves and try to destroy the flock.



Why No Leaders?

Even in industry today, there are very few

_____ .

The greater the _____ , the higher the leader must rise.

The bigger a church wants to grow, the bigger its

leaders have to be.

Very few people know how to be a *high flier* and yet still keep both feet on the ground. This requires _____ .

The greatest enemy of leadership is _____ . (Proverbs 16:18)

Therefore the greatest battle to becoming a strong leader is from within a person's own _____ .

Some of the reasons why Christians don't rise up into service within the local church are -:

Because people need the example of mature Christians, and God has said that He has placed them within His Church, we must assume that there are people within each local church with the call to some degree of leadership upon them.

It is the responsibility of each local church pastor to encourage the _____ of people within the church.

The Biblical Pattern

The Biblical means of producing maturity within a church is for people to come under _____ authority.

One man can not do everything. God expects His people to all rise up to a greater level of service. (Exodus 18:13-38; Numbers 11:10-15)

The two most basic types of structure within a church are -

1. Leadership with a first among equals
2. Co-equality- everyone equal

The principle of a delegated team leadership structure is seen in the Old & New Testaments - Ex. 18:19; Dt. 1:9-18; Ecc. 4:9-12; Ps. 133; Amos 3:3; Pr. 22:14
Matt. 11:29-30; Acts 6:1-3; Acts 13:1-3; Eph. 4:11

