

Leadership

I was requested, some time ago, to write on leadership. First, I wish to say that the request came to the poorest example that I know to undertake such a task. Secondly, I know only one place from which to respond to this request and that is the bible, which is God's word of truth for us. Since, it is Christ's church, which He established upon the earth; and it is His word of truth, and Holy Spirit, that guides that church, the bible is where we will find answers to our sincere request for spiritual guidance in life. Let's begin with some Old Testament examples and then move into the New Testament and the example that Jesus Christ set.

The first example that comes to mind is Moses, whom God chose to lead Israel out of bondage in Egypt. The bible has this to say about Moses: ***Nu 12:3 (Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.)*** God said this of Moses, when the authority and leadership that God had placed upon him was challenged. Thus, we can draw from this picture an example, of one of the qualities of leadership in the church is the spirit of meekness, and a willingness to serve God faithfully.

Our thoughts run immediately to the scripture in: ***1Pe 3:4 But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.*** This text is a picture of the church (the wife) being in subjection to her husband, Jesus Christ, who is the head and leader of "the church".

We see in the book of Numbers where God chose the leadership of Israel (the church leadership should be chosen by God), and set them in place as seen in these scriptures: ***Nu 11:16 And the LORD said unto Moses, Gather unto me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom thou knowest to be the elders of the people, and officers over them; and bring them unto the tabernacle of the congregation, that they may stand there with thee.*** We point out that God had already told Moses earlier who the leaders of Israel were to be in Numbers chapters 1 and 2. We find in the book of Numbers that God appointed the leadership of each tribe and also gave instruction as to their individual duties.

We see this choosing process established in New Testament scripture when Jesus called the disciples, remembering that He chose each of them, they didn't appoint themselves. We see it also in the establishment of the deaconry in: ***Ac 6:1 And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration. 2 Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. 3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. 4 But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word. 5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch: 6 Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them.***

We also find in the book of Numbers another quality of the leadership of the church which is the anointing of God's Spirit upon them as seen in: ***Nu 11:24 And Moses went out, and told the people the words of the LORD, and gathered the seventy men of the elders of the people, and set them round about the tabernacle. 25 And the LORD came down in a cloud, and spake unto him, and took of the spirit that was upon him, and gave it unto the seventy elders: and it came to pass, that, when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied, and did not cease.*** We see this same principle in New Testament scripture in the establishment of the deaconry.

We see here the hierachal order of the church established by God. We see the same power of God that was upon Moses being placed upon the helpers in leadership positions. This is a picture of

Jesus, the head of the church and the divine power of God, anointing the ministers of the gospel, the elders, deacons and other church leaders of the organized church on earth in time.

Let's now look at our Head, Jesus Christ, and see what qualities He exhibited when incarnate. We know that he was meek in that He submitted to the will of God the Father as seen in: **Mt 11:29** *Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.; Mt 21:5 Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass.; Mt 26:42 He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.; Joh 5:30 I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.; Ga 1:4 Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:* Jesus exhibited the quality of meekness and submission to God the Father by giving up his place in heaven and coming to earth incarnate. He showed forth the quality of submission to the Father by giving his life on the cross. Herein, we see that the leadership of the church should be born again men, who are willing to relinquish all to serve the Lord Jesus Christ and His people.

Going back to the point of being chosen by God as was Moses; think about Paul the apostle. Did Paul choose the life of an apostle? Just as Moses was going about doing his own thing and God called him forth to service, so Paul, (Saul before the name change) was going about doing things his way until he met Jesus, who called him and set him apart to be used for the furtherance of the gospel of Christ.

We find in scripture that the leadership of the church was of men who were filled with the Holy Ghost as demonstrated in: **Mr 1:8 I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost.** (the church is a body of people anointed with the Holy Ghost); **Joh 20:21 Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. 22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:** (the disciples are anointed with the Holy Spirit); **Ac 13:2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.** (ministers of the gospel anointed and sent forth); **Ac 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.** (Paul pointing out that the Holy Ghost has appointed, and anointed, them to be shepherds in the church).

Considering these aspects we see clearly that anyone in a leadership position in the church should first be a person that is God chosen (born again), and exemplifies that choosing by their walks and talks in agreement with God's word and work of truth. We see that these persons should have in them a spirit of meekness, standing firm upon God's word of truth in meekness before the one who gave/gives that word of truth, the head of the church, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.

Scripture teaches us that in the church we do not exercise lordship as demonstrated in scripture in: **Mr 10:42 But Jesus called them to him, and saith unto them, Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them. 43 But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister: 44 And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all. 45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.; Lu 22:25 And he said unto them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors. 26 But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve.** Jesus makes this very plain and it needs no explanation. The leadership of the church should therefore be as Christ was; they should be willing to leave all and serve God, and God's church, with their allness.

Bearing all these things in mind, we see that all of God's people are to be meek in the presence of their God, remembering who the Creator is and who is the created. We also see that leadership in the church is a thing that is placed upon all of God's people. How you ask? Manifested first in Christ our example: ***Joh 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.*** This same light is manifested in God's people: ***Mt 5:14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.*** Commanded of God in: ***Mt 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.***

Thus we see leadership in the church is something that is not to be lightly taken. We are all to be leaders, by living our lives in meekness before God; while standing steadfast upon the sure foundation of God's word of truth, our walks and talks both agreeing with God's teachings. The "Church" of the Lord Jesus Christ is the standard of leadership to all the world, in time. In other words; Jesus Christ is the flag, under which we live, and unto which we pledge our allegiance. We learn from all this that the preachers, and those in leadership positions in the church, are not our gods or lords, but those chosen to fulfill a duty to our Lord and Saviour here in time. The bible clearly gives the standards by which the leadership positions are to be filled in the church.

We have often heard; if a person wants a position (seeking status or stature) in the church that is the person you don't want to have a position in the church. This is something we have seen prove to be true. Resorting to scripture we see; God always chose those to serve him that were not seeking to be in the position of leadership: example: Moses, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, King David, the disciples, Paul the apostle, the Lord Jesus Christ and many others. Actually, every heir of grace was at first alienated from God and had no desire to serve the Lord until they heard the voice of Jesus calling them forth, from that dead and alienated state to newness of life in Jesus Christ, into the Church.

We should always let the bible, and the guidance and ministration of the Holy Spirit, be our leadership that we might be leaders in godliness in this world of sin and sorrow. May God add his blessing to his word of truth.

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