

## NECESSARY LEADERSHIP QUALITIES

### I. A reliance on God.

- A. The Bible is full of great leaders of God's people.
  - 1. Moses is one of the first leaders that comes to mind.
  - 2. David, Hezekiah, Josiah, Nehemiah and Paul also come to mind when thinking of men who have led God's people.
- B. There is no doubt that each of these men relied heavily on God and His word.
- C. Moses went to God frequently when leading the children of Israel.
  - 1. Admittedly, Moses was blessed with direct communications with God, but he relied on Him.
  - 2. He was constantly turning to God to know how to deal with situations that arose with God's people.
- D. Each of the men mentioned relied on God by studying His word.
  - 1. David wrote the longest psalm strictly about God's word.
  - 2. Hezekiah and Josiah both had God's word read to them and Josiah also had it read to the people.
  - 3. Paul, even in prison and with the great blessing of inspiration, called for the parchments to study (2 Timothy 4:13).
- E. Prayer is the greatest manner in which these men showed reliance on God.
  - 1. Psalm 90 is listed as a prayer of Moses; also it was Moses that would pray for the people on occasions of great sin (Numbers 11:2; 21:7).
  - 2. David (Psalm 55:1; 61:1).
  - 3. Hezekiah (2 Chronicles 32:20, 24).
  - 4. Nehemiah (1:4; 2:4).
  - 5. Paul (Acts 16:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; 2 Timothy 1:3).
- F. We need godly men who will show their reliance on God through Bible study and prayer and allow God to work through them and in their lives.

### II. A love for God's people.

- A. A leader must love those he leads.
- B. He is to seek out their best interests, even over his own.
- C. What this boils down to is a willingness to serve others.
- D. This is the example set by the greatest of God's leaders: His Son Jesus.
  - 1. Jesus served others in life (John 13 for example).
  - 2. Jesus definitely served other in death (Romans 5:8).
- E. How often do we see Moses seeking out the best for those he led when we read through Exodus to Deuteronomy?
- F. David wanted what was best for the Israelites as he led them as king.
- G. Hezekiah destroyed the idols of his forefathers as did Josiah because he loved God's people and wanted the best for them.
- H. Notice the words of Paul (2 Timothy 2:10; 2 Corinthians 12:15).
- I. Christians will willingly follow one that loves them.

### III. A desire to do right.

- A. There is a great need for leaders, but the ones that step forward must be those who desire to do what God would have done.
- B. There is a multitude of men who desire to lead, but their desire to do right is not there.
  - 1. Men such as this will compromise if it suits their needs.
  - 2. There are men who don't have biblical knowledge to truly lead who have a desire to lead.
- C. There is no doubt that the men we have been discussing had a great desire to do right.
- D. Leaders show the desire to do right by their willingness to meet the qualifications necessary to be leaders in the Lord's church.
  - 1. Again, all the qualifications listed for elders and deacons are to be already present in the life of one who is being appointed to either office.
  - 2. Men show their desire to do right by cultivating these characteristics into their lives long before they are sought for positions of leadership.
- E. Many think nothing of getting further schooling to prepare themselves for positions of leadership in secular works.
  - 1. And there is absolutely nothing wrong with this.
  - 2. We ought to seek to be the best at whatever we do.
- F. However, we ought to give more effort to readying ourselves for work in the Lord's kingdom.
  - 1. Men who will spend time studying for betterment at work won't crack their Bibles.
  - 2. We should have a far greater desire to be usable in God's kingdom than in the secular workforce.
- G. This desire to do right is a desire to do such under any circumstances.
  - 1. Just because a stance may produce difficulties does not mean it should be abandoned if it is the right stance.
  - 2. Just because a position on an issue may bring hardship does not mean it should not be taken if it is the right position.
- H. A desire to do right means standing for the truth no matter the cost or backlash.
- I. God's people need such men to lead them through difficult times.

#### **IV. A desire to grow.**

- A. Godly leaders are never satisfied with the present knowledge they possess.
- B. We noticed earlier that the men mentioned relied heavily on God's word.
  - 1. They were not content with the knowledge they possessed when they became leaders.
  - 2. They continually went to God's word in order to grow.
- C. We each become more godly the more we come to know God.
  - 1. We cannot rest on past study.
  - 2. A better leader is a more knowledgeable one.
- D. As pointed out in Paul's life, though facing death, he still called for God's

word to be brought to him in order to study.

- E. Truth doesn't change but the error used to attack it does.
  - 1. Therefore, a constant study to know the truth is needed to be able to point out and refute error.
  - 2. Leaders must be able to use the truth to silence error (Titus 1:9).
- F. God's people need men who are not satisfied with their knowledge of His word.
  - 1. Leaders lead by example.
  - 2. When they show those they are following that study and growth is important, those who follow will desire to grow as well.