

## LEADERSHIP FOR CHRISTIANS

*by Rev. Randal W. Schoemann*

Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, whom we serve and in whose name we serve in the leadership roles assigned to us! I have been asked to facilitate the growth of our congregation, its leaders, and as a bi-product, myself, by presenting a study of the Christian principles involved in leadership. I do so with earnest prayer and utmost humility, since I do not consider myself to have achieved the goal of perfection in leadership. However, I believe firmly that we can all gain something for ourselves as we stop to consider where we are as leaders and where we can grow to if we let God's Word and some solid principles for good, consistent leadership guide us.

Having said that, I would like to begin this study with a fervent prayer that the Holy Spirit would guide me and all of you as we begin this journey together. May all that we say and think serve to the greater glory of our God and the enrichment of our powers and abilities to serve in our God-given leadership roles. While these principles surely apply to the Church, you will find that as we adopt the tactics and grow as Christian leaders, that we will also consequently grow in other areas of our lives as well. Taking to heart what we learn we will no doubt become better in what we do at home, at work, in our community, etc. May God grant us His blessings then as we begin in the name of the only God, The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit!

FIRST: Why Should I grow As A Leader?

A Christian professional who has studied and written extensively on this topic, John C. Maxwell, suggests in his book, "Leadership 101", 'The higher the leadership, the greater the effectiveness.' He suggests that leadership ability is the lid that determines a person's level of effectiveness. In Holy Scripture the Lord laments the state of sheep without a shepherd. He himself is in fact the Good Shepherd who cares for his sheep. He cares about the way shepherds shepherd and how sheep and lambs follow. We can improve both by lifting our eyes to the place that our help comes from, specifically our God himself. He is our Rock and our Refuge. In him we put our hope.

If every person here will apply these concepts to himself we will raise the level of each board, committee, etc. In effect we will also raise the blessings which flow to those we serve, the congregation, etc. I will become a better Pastor, husband, father, grandfather, son, friend, citizen, etc. In turn each of us will become better in our areas of ministry, etc. In his book, "Sharpening the Sword – A Call to Strong and Courageous Leadership", Rev. Stephen D. Hower begins, "After the death of Moses, Joshua was overwhelmed by his God-given role as leader of the children of Israel. The Lord appeared to Joshua and for reassurance offered him a two-fold prescription for success: He told Joshua, 'Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or the left, that you may be successful wherever you go.' First, Joshua was to be devoted to the truth as revealed in God's Word. Secondly, he was told to be strong and courageous."

In his book Hower concentrates on the second part of God's prescription for success, "boldness in leadership." He uses the examples of 50 outstanding leaders to apply the biblical principles of leadership and see them in action. In our study we will reference a number of qualified leaders. The most important thing we will do is appropriate for ourselves the truths that we see are grounded in the Bible.

Maxwell puts it quite effectively by stating: “Becoming a leader is a lot like investing in the stock market. What matters most is what you do day by day over the long haul. By continually investing in your leadership development, your ‘assets’ compound, resulting in substantial growth over time.” May we seek first God’s kingdom and his righteousness as we attempt to grow as leaders and then He will keep his promise, “and all these things will be added to you as well.” The dividends for growing in the Lord’s Word are truly exponential! May God bless our study and may we benefit to His glory and our good dear friends!

Dear Lord,

You are the Lord of our lives. You hold us in the palm of your powerful hand. We ask today that you will bless us in our time together. Help us by teaching us how we can become the type of leaders that you alone know how to produce and strengthen. We are often uneasy and not confident in our abilities to carry out the weighty responsibilities that you have assigned to us. Destroy our doubt and misgivings and replace it with certainty and resolve that you will keep your promise to us and go with us everywhere that you send us until the end of time. In the name of our faithful Shepherd, Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.