

**Following Christ,  
Leading Others**



**A Men's  
Training Class**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## MEN'S TRAINING CLASS

<b>DISCIPLESHIP</b> ( <i>Richie Thetford</i> ).....	1
INTRODUCTION.....	1
I.    JESUS CALLS US.....	1
II.   A TRUE DISCIPLE INDEED IS ONE THAT WILL CONTINUE IN HIS WORD.....	2
III.  WE ARE STUDENTS IN THE CLASSROOM OF JESUS.....	3
<b>MAN'S LEADERSHIP IN THE HOME</b> ( <i>Ron Halbrook</i> ).....	5
INTRODUCTION.....	5
I.    GOD MADE MAN TO LEAD THE FAMILY.....	5
II.   MORAL AND SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP GROWS OUT OF LOVING GOD AND OUR FELLOW MAN.....	6
III.  WHAT CAN WE DO TO DEVELOP MORAL AND SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP IN THE HOME?.....	7
1.    Personal and individual growth must come first.....	7
2.    Man must grow in leading his wife?.....	10
3.    Man must grow in leading his children.....	10
4.    Man must grow in leading the family as a unit.....	11
IV.  CONCLUSION.....	14
<b>MAN'S LEADERSHIP IN THE CHURCH</b> ( <i>Mike Willis</i> ).....	15
INTRODUCTION.....	15
I.    ATTRIBUTES OF MEN WHO LEAD IN PUBLIC WORSHIP TO GOD.....	15
1.    They must demonstrate faith.....	15
2.    They must manifest moral purity.....	16
3.    They must have God's cause on their hearts.....	17
4.    They must recognize the impact of their influence on others.....	18
II.   EXCUSES OFFERED FOR USING HALF-COMMITTED MEMBERS.....	18
III.  PROBLEMS CREATED BY POOR LEADERSHIP.....	19
IV.  ATTRIBUTES OF A GOOD LEADER IN THE LOCAL CHURCH.....	20
V.   CONCLUSION.....	21

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**  
**MEN'S TRAINING CLASS**  
*ARTICLES*

<b>PARENTS IN THE HOME (1) (Mike Willis)</b> .....	<b>22</b>
<b>PARENTS IN THE HOME (2) (Mike Willis)</b> .....	<b>24</b>
<b>THE TWENTY YEAR GOAL OF PARENTS (H.E. Phillips)</b> .....	<b>26</b>
<b>THE WORK ETHIC (Robert C. Welch)</b> .....	<b>28</b>
<b>YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW (Earl R. Gibson)</b> .....	<b>30</b>
<b>OVERCOMING PEER PRESSURE (Robert W. Goodman)</b> .....	<b>32</b>
<b>PARENTAL EXAMPLE (L.A. Stauffer)</b> .....	<b>34</b>
<b>THE IMPACT OF WORKING MOTHERS (J. Wiley Adams)</b> .....	<b>36</b>
<b>PARENTAL PERMISSIVENESS (Edward O. Bragwell, Sr.)</b> .....	<b>38</b>
<b>DISCIPLINE IN THE LORD (Richie Thetford)</b> .....	<b>41</b>
<b>GIVE US MEN OF BACKBONE! (Michael Baggett)</b> .....	<b>46</b>

# INTRODUCTION

*Richie Thetford*

**T**he success of any local church will only be as great as the men therein are dedicated to making it so. Unfortunately many congregations of the Lord's church today are failing in their responsibility of converting souls, and keeping the ones they have pure in all manner of life. We are living in a time where society has accepted just about everything, whether it be adultery, fornication, pornography, immodest apparel, etc. The sad part is that most of the sins of the flesh (Gal 5:19-21) have even crept into the Lord's church through its members. Who is responsible for the mess that the Lord's church is in today? Why is it that many churches of Christ seem to be apathetic to the teaching of **ALL** the oracles of God (1 Pet 4:11)?

The answer can be found in the leadership of each respective congregation. And who are the leaders? We are. Any man professing to be a Christian should be developing himself to help lead God's children. Because so many men in the Lord's church are not taking up "*the whole armour of God*" so that they may be able to withstand evil, having done all they can to stand for the Lord (Eph 6:13), the Lord's church is suffering today.

This study is designed to help us understand more fully our role and responsibility as a man of God so that we can be an effective leader in the Lord's church. But before we can lead others, we must first know who we are following. To be a spiritual leader in the Lord's church we must follow Jesus Christ. Until we completely surrender our life over to Jesus, we will never be an effective husband, father, or leader in the Lord's church.

Therefore, the first area of our study will center on what it means to be a true disciple of Jesus. We must first be His disciple before we can progress with our life and service for Him. After studying about discipleship and being committed to follow Christ then we are ready to start leading. The first place we need to start is in our own home. Our second study will center on how to be a proper husband and an effective leader in our home. Once we have learned what we need to do and are willing to take up our responsibility of ruling our home the way the God expects us to, then we will be ready to lead by example in His church. Our last study will be on how to be an effective leader in the Lord's church.

For your information the lesson on "**DISCIPLESHIP**" was compiled and written by Richie Thetford. The lesson on "**MAN'S LEADERSHIP IN THE HOME**" was compiled and written by Ron Halbrook who preaches for the Hebron Lane church of Christ, Shepherdsville, KY. The lesson on "**MAN'S LEADERSHIP IN THE CHURCH**" was compiled and written by Mike Willis who is the editor of *Truth Magazine*. All the material in this study was prepared and typed by Richie Thetford.

It is my sincere hope and desire that each man will examine himself and be determined to be a true disciple for the Lord, a leader in his home, and an effective leader in the church of God. The Lord is depending on YOU and ME to raise our children properly and to keep His church pure!

# DISCIPLESHIP

*Richie Thetford*

## INTRODUCTION:

1. Before we can ever hope to be an effective Christian, Husband, Father, or Leader in the Lord's church we must understand what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.
2. DISCIPLE Defined: "A pupil or follower of any teacher or school; A **follower** of Jesus." (Webster)
3. We will learn from this study that we must forsake everything and every person and put Christ **FIRST** in our life.
  - A. Forsake Defined: "Give up; renounce; to leave; abandon; desert." (Webster)
    - 1) Those unwilling to do so, will not enter into heaven and will never become the leader and servant that Jesus wants us to be.
4. When we grasp the true meaning of discipleship and the importance of **Following Christ** then we will become an effective leader and servant in His kingdom.
5. Before we can be an effective leader in our home and in the Lord's church this lesson must be understood first and foremost.
  - A. Many are not able to grasp the true meaning of discipleship and as a result find themselves trying to serve God and at the same time trying to conform to society. Let us understand the truth of Jesus' words as He said: "*No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.*" (Matthew 6:24).

## I. JESUS CALLS US:

1. Jesus appeals to all mankind to come unto Him. His words are tender and sweet as he pleads:

---

**Matt 11:28-30** "*Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.*"

2. As a result of this invitation, many follow Him, seeking to become His disciples.
3. Jesus warns that we cannot be His disciples **UNLESS** we first count the cost. We must take a stand for Jesus above all else!

- A. Notice from the following verses the cost one must pay to be a true disciple of Jesus: (Luke 14:25-27; 9:23-26)

**Matt 10:34-39** *Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; and 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household.' He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.*

**Matt 16:24-25** *Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.*

**Luke 9:57-62** *Now it happened as they journeyed on the road, that someone said to Him, "Lord, I will follow You wherever You go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." Then He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God." And another also said, "Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house." But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."*

- B. We can see from these scriptures that the Lord wanted all to follow Him but they first had to count the cost of doing so.

- 1) If one is not willing to be **TOTALLY** committed to Jesus he cannot be one of His disciples!

4. By His own life Jesus demonstrated what it meant to be a follower and to deny self:

**John 7:16** *Jesus answered them and said, "My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me.*

**John 17:4** *I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.*

## **II. A TRUE DISCIPLE INDEED IS ONE THAT WILL CONTINUE IN HIS WORD:**

1. Jesus expects us to serve Him all the time. If one serves only when it is convenient and pleasant he has not denied himself; neither is he the Lord's disciple.

- A. To be His disciple we must **REMAIN** in His word. Jesus said:

**John 8:31-32** *Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*

- B. Paul reveals that it was for this that Jesus died, so that those of us who "live" as a result of His death might stop living for our own pleasure, but for the pleasure of Him who died on our behalf.

**2 Cor 5:15-16** *and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.*

- 2. We are exhorted to continue in the faith and as a result will encounter tribulation but all is worth while as we strive for the everlasting kingdom!

**Acts 14:22** *strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."*

**Rev 2:10** *Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.*

### **III. WE ARE STUDENTS IN THE CLASSROOM OF JESUS: (Ephesians 4:17-24)**

- 1. Here we can receive a wealth of information on how to conduct our life as a Christian and leader for Christ!

- A. Verses 17-19: Common walk of life. People pursue vain interests. Remove themselves from the source of eternal life.

- B. Verse 20: The dividing line. Christians are told they did not learn Christ to be of that sort!

- C. Verses 21-24: Putting off the old man and putting on the new. Filled with righteousness and true holiness.

- 2. We must live among sinners, but we must stand out as being different.

- A. A preacher once said: "Jesus could mix with publicans and sinners but He was never mistaken for one of them".

- 1) True disciples realize this world is not our home.

**Heb 11:13-16** *These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.*

3. The true Christian has learned Christ because He has been taught by Him. Christianity is not bought, caught, or fought but is "*taught*". One cannot be a Christian, a disciple of Christ, without learning Christ and His doctrine. Students of Christ are sticklers for remaining in His teaching (2 John 9-11; John 8:31-32).

4. When people see us and our ways, do they see our teacher?

A. People could easily see who was the source of motivation to the apostles.

**Acts 4:13** *Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.*

1) These scholarly Jews had no problem knowing whose classroom they had been in!

B. Since Jesus is our teacher and we dedicate our life in following Him, we wear His name. (Acts 11:26).

1) Let us not dishonor Christ's name. Make Him proud that we are serving and leading faithfully while wearing His name!

C. Those that have been taught by Christ are controlled by His message and put their trust in Christ and His truth.

**Eph 1:13** *In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,*

1) A Disciple of Christ will therefore study his Bible daily and desire to come to a full knowledge to the truth and his teacher.

a) Are we like our teacher?

b) If so, then we will be determined right now to follow Jesus. If we do, we can have peace through His word which says: "*But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*" (1 John 1:7)

(With special thanks to Jeff May whose April 19, 1990 Guardian of Truth article "*Students in the Classroom of Jesus*" was used for the majority of my writing in section III above)



# MAN'S LEADERSHIP IN THE HOME

*Ron Halbrook*

## INTRODUCTION:

1. Man's leadership in every aspect of home life depends first and foremost on his spiritual attitude, condition, and role.
2. If we succeed in other ways but fail in spiritual leadership, we fail in our most serious responsibility.
3. If we do not attain all the material, physical, and carnal goals we have in life, but succeed in the spiritual leadership of our family, we are a success rather than a failure in God's sight.

## I. GOD MADE MAN TO LEAD THE FAMILY:

1. Whom did God make responsible from the beginning?

**Gen 2:24** *Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.*

**Gen 3:16** *To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you."*

2. Can God say this about me?

**Gen 18:19** *For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice, that the LORD may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him."*

3. Who should lead in setting an example of love for God and in teaching God's word?

**Deut 6:4-9** *"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*

4. Do we have this kind of determination in our spiritual life?

**Josh 24:15** *And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."*

5. Do we hide or teach God's law?

**Ps 78:4-7** *We will not hide them from their children, Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, And His strength and His wonderful works that He has done. For He established a testimony in Jacob, And appointed a law in Israel, Which He commanded our fathers, That they should make them known to their children; That the generation to come might know them, The children who would be born, That they may arise and declare them to their children, That they may set their hope in God, And not forget the works of God, But keep His commandments;*

6. Who is the perfect pattern of ideal leadership, and who is responsible to follow that pattern in leading the family?

**Eph 5:22-6:4** *Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth." And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.*

## **II. MORAL AND SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP GROWS OUT OF LOVING GOD AND OUR FELLOW MAN:**

**Matt 22:36-40** *"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus said to him, " 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."*

**Rom 13:8-10** *Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.*

1. Every specific application and exercise of true leadership is based on this principle.
2. Leadership based on mere tradition, emotion, human philosophy, and force is flawed.

3. We must develop, exercise, and increase spiritual leadership in various areas of life. Leadership is not automatic.
  - A. We must grow personally and individually.
  - B. We must grow in relationship to our wife.
  - C. We must grow in relationship to each of our children.
  - D. We must grow personally in relationship to the family as a whole or a unit.

### **III. WHAT CAN WE DO TO DEVELOP MORAL AND SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP IN THE HOME?**

#### 1. Personal and individual growth must come first.

- A. Obey the gospel (right relationship with God is basis for every other right relationship). Must do what is right, if to lead others to do what is right.

**Acts 2:38** *Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

**Rom 6:1-4** *What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*

- B. Private, personal Bible study.

**1 Peter 2:1-3** *Therefore, laying aside all malice, all guile, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.*

- C. Private, personal prayer.

**Matt 6:6** *But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.*

**Phil 4:6** *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;*

- D. Be courteous, kind and considerate.

**Matt 7:12** *Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.*

**Matt 22:39** *And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*

- E. Be a good example in all things (includes attitude, word, and deed; avoid profanity, pornography, gambling, drinking, immodesty, etc.)

**Matt 5:13-16** *You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*

- F. Show respect for others by the way we speak to them and treat them (relatives, friends, neighbors, etc.). Matthew 7:12

- G. Provide for family's physical needs to the best of our ability.

**1 Tim 5:8** *But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

- H. Keep your word (do what you say and say what you mean). Matthew 7:12

**Col 3:9** *Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds,*

- I. Have the proper attitude toward others outside of your family (includes helping them in any way we can; avoid gossip, bitterness, etc; control temper and tongue). Matthew 7:12; 22:39

- J. Have the right relationship to civil government (obey laws, pay taxes, etc.)

**Rom 13:1-7** *Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake. For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.*

- K. Have the right relationship to employer and employee.

**Eph 6:5-9** *Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, with good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free. And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.*

- L. Have the right relationship to your neighbors and others in the community where we live (patient, compassionate, humble, honest, peaceable).

---

**Rom 12:14-18** *Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.*

- M. Be honest, sincere, and above reproach in all dealings with everyone (including family, saints, and sinners; leave no room for doubt) Rom 12:17.

**2 Cor 8:21** *providing honorable things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.*

- N. Don't be materialistic (be content with what you have and who you are).

**Matt 6:24** *No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.*

**Heb 13:5** *Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."*

- O. Show patience toward family and others. Matthew 7:12

**Eph 4:1-3** *I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

**Eph 4:31-32** *Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.*

2. Man must grow in leading his wife?

- A. Prayer with his wife.

**Eph 5:28-31** *So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."*

- B. Bible reading and study with his wife.

**1 Peter 2:1-3** *Therefore, laying aside all malice, all guile, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.*

**Eph 5:23** *For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.*

- C. Treats his wife in a godly manner (shows respect, affection, gratitude).

**1 Peter 3:7** *Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.*

- D. Communicates with his wife. Ephesians 5:28-31; 1 Peter 3:7

- E. Sexual faithfulness and purity.

**Heb 13:4** *Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.*

- F. Other qualities are considered under 4 below (Family).

3. Man must grow in leading his children.

- A. Prays with his children. Ephesians 6:4

- B. Does Bible reading and study with his children. 1 Peter 2:1-3; Ephesians 6:4

- C. Helps his children prepare their lessons for Bible class. Ephesians 6:4

**Acts 17:11** *These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.*

D. Treats his children in a godly manner (shows respect, affection, gratitude). Ephesians 6:4

**Col 3:21** *Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.*

E. Communicates with his children. Ephesians 6:4

F. Provides sexual education of children with God in the picture. Ephesians 6:4; Hebrews 13:4

G. Balanced and consistent discipline. Ephesians 6:4

1) Do we follow through with our promises (Good and Bad)?

**Heb 12:6-11** *For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives." If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.*

H. Teach children how to give as we prosper and cheerfully. Ephesians 6:4; 4:28

**1 Cor 16:2** *On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.*

**2 Cor 9:7** *So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.*

I. Other qualities are considered under 4 below (Family).

4. Man must grow in leading the family as a unit.

A. Prayer with family gathered together (meal time; facing problems; decision making; other times). Ephesians 6:4; 5:23

**Phil 4:6** *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;*

- B. Teach children "problem solving" with God in the picture, and practice it with the whole family. Matthew 7:12

**1 Peter 3:10-12** *For "He who would love life And see good days, Let him refrain his tongue from evil, And his lips from speaking deceit. Let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the LORD is against those who do evil."*

**1 Peter 5:5-7** *Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.*

- C. Bible reading and study with family gathered together. Eph 5:28-31; 6:4
- D. Spend good quality time with family (include some separate time with each one).

**Deut 6:7** *You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.*

- E. Make decisions for family after considering their needs, feeling, and input. Ephesians 5:28-31; 6:4
- F. Be willing to visit and assist elderly and others, with help of wife and children.

**James 1:27** *Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.*

- G. Responsible use of money; work with wife; teach children (put the Lord first, then family necessities, and other things; share without grudging; balanced). 1 Corinthians 16:2; Ephesians 4:28

**1 Tim 6:6-10** *Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*



- H. Guide the family in careful use of the television (avoid double standard of warning children against ungodly shows, and then watching them ourselves; don't let television monopolize your time or the family's time; use moderation).

**1 Thess 5:21-22** *Test all things; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.*

**Eph 5:15-17** *See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.*

- I. Teach the family the difference between God's law and the civil law.

**Acts 5:29** *But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men."*

**Matt 19:9** *And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery."*

**Rom 1:27** *Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.*

- J. Keep recreation in its proper limits (don't compromise with sin or forsake the assembly; consider interests of others in the family; don't be extravagant with it; don't let it crowd out other needed activities). James 1:27

**1 John 2:15-17** *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.*

- K. Teach your wife and children to teach others the gospel (encourage them to invite their friends to church, give out meeting announcements, etc.) Ephesians 6:4

**2 Tim 2:2** *And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.*

#### **IV. CONCLUSION:**

1. Next to saving his own soul, the most important responsibility a man has is to provide moral and spiritual leadership for his family. He cannot guarantee that they will always follow as they should, but he is still **RESPONSIBLE** to **LEAD**.
2. This outline suggests a theme we need to pray about and study, but does not exhaust the study. What suggestions can you add?
3. All of us can see areas where we need to improve and grow. With the help of God, our family, and other Christians, we can grow if we sincerely **DESIRE** to!

# MAN'S LEADERSHIP IN THE CHURCH

## Qualities For Leadership

*Mike Willis*

### INTRODUCTION:

1. Whether we recognize it or not, men who lead the congregation in public worship have an impact on the congregation.
  - A. Many look up to the men who lead public worship in the congregation as leaders to be imitated.
    - 1) This is true of preachers, Bible class teachers, those serving on the Lord's table, or lead public prayers.
      - a) Sometimes men are chosen for these roles who are not examples worthy to be imitated.
2. Let's look at some qualities that should be present in the men who take a public role in worship.
  - A. This is not to imply that those who are young and inexperienced should never be used in worship.
    - 1) However, where men who do not have these attributes are used regularly, the congregation becomes convinced that one can be faithful to God without these attributes.

### I. ATTRIBUTES OF MEN WHO LEAD IN THE PUBLIC WORSHIP TO GOD:

1. They must demonstrate faith.
  - A. Timothy was exhorted to "exercise himself in godliness".

**1 Tim 4:7** *But reject profane and old wives' fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness.*
  - B. Timothy was also exhorted not to become entangled in the affairs of this life to such a degree that he could not serve Him who called him as a soldier (2 Tim 2:4).

- C. Men chosen in Acts 6 were men "full of the Holy Ghost" and "full of faith".

**Acts 6:3** *Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business;*

**Acts 6:5** *And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch,*

- D. Barnabas had such an impact on the church because he was "full of the Holy Ghost and of faith".

**Acts 11:24** *For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord.*

- 1) A congregation rarely excels its leadership. If the leadership of the congregation is without zeal and half-committed, the congregation is usually the same way (although there may be some with life in it).
- 2) When a congregation uses men in the public worship who do not attend half of the services, who habitually come to Bible class without preparation, who show no interest in the worship service, etc., that congregation is making a **STATEMENT** to its membership that one can lack these attributes and still be acceptable to God.
- 3) When leaders of the local church are so entangled in the affairs of this life that they have no time to serve the Lord, when they are so wrapped up in baseball or school activities that they miss many of the services, or when they just don't care enough to be present, the congregation will have a **SPIRIT OF INDIFFERENCE** spread like a gangrene through its members.

2. They must manifest moral purity.

- A. Timothy manifested moral purity.

**1 Tim 4:12** *Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.*

**2 Tim 2:22** *Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.*

- 1) By following righteousness and all godly virtues then he could be "fit for the master's use".

**2 Tim 2:21** *Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.*

- B. Those who administered the daily ministrations in Acts 6 had to be men of honest report.

**Acts 6:3** *Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business;*

- C. Those who take active roles in the local church must be men and women whose moral lives are **ABOVE** reproach.

1) When men are used to serve the Lord's table who are known to social drink, do not dress modestly, etc., the congregation will be influenced to think that one can do all of these things and be pleasing to God.

a) Those that engage in social drinking, fornication, etc. do not need to be leading singing, teaching Bible classes, making announcements, or leading public prayer; they need to be told to repent and be converted!

3. They must have God's cause on their hearts.

- A. Nehemiah's concern for the Lord's people demonstrates another quality of good leaders.

1) When he learned that the walls of Jerusalem were broken down, he "sat down and wept". He was so saddened that even the king noticed his sadness. Nehemiah had the **CAUSE OF GOD** on his heart.

**Neh 1:3-4** *And they said to me, "The survivors who are left from the captivity in the province are there in great distress and reproach. The wall of Jerusalem is also broken down, and its gates are burned with fire." So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned for many days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven.*

**Neh 2:2** *Therefore the king said to me, "Why is your face sad, since you are not sick? This is nothing but sorrow of heart." So I became dreadfully afraid,*

- B. Many of those who serve the Lord's people are not saddened by problems facing the Lord's church.

1) Some come to church on Sunday morning and forget about the church until the next Sunday morning.

a) Once they leave the building, they quickly lay aside all thought of the Lord and his church, turning again to the affairs of life.

b) We need men like Nehemiah who have the cause of the Lord on their hearts!

4. They must recognize the impact of their influence on others.

A. Teachers were warned:

**James 3:1** *My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.*

- 1) Teachers have an influence on others, not only by what they teach in class, but also by how they live.
  - a) What does a teacher say to his students in Bible class when he misses a night of the gospel meeting to play baseball?
  - b) What does a teacher say to his Wednesday night Bible class when he is too lazy to get up on Sunday morning to attend Bible class, slipping in just in time to observe the Lord's supper?

B. Men do the cause of Christ a grave injustice by using those who are half-committed to the Lord in public roles.

- 1) Roles such as: Bible class teachers, song leaders, leaders of public prayer, announcers, ushers, or any other capacity.
  - a) All these jobs should be done by men who truly care about the Lord's work!

## **II. EXCUSES OFFERED FOR USING HALF-COMMITTED MEMBERS:**

1. To encourage these members to come.

A. This is getting the cart before the horse. Where did one ever get the idea that the job of teaching Bible class be given to ENCOURAGE a person to attend? It certainly did not come from the Bible!

2. To use every member as a teacher.

A. Notice what 1 Corinthians 12:29 says:

**1 Cor 12:29** *Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles?*

- 1) This plainly states that not every Christian is capable of being a teacher; some of those who are capable of becoming qualified to be a teacher do not have the desire to become one.

3. No one else will do it.
  - A. Some half-committed men are given a Bible class because no one else will take it.
    - 1) This is not concerning those humble, dedicated Christian men who are reluctant to step forward because of their humble assessment of their own abilities.
    - 2) This concerns the Christian men that are too lazy to assume responsibility; so, rather than taking the extra work of teaching more frequently, some lazy Christians are content to use half-committed members in public roles.

### **III. PROBLEMS CREATED BY POOR LEADERSHIP:**

1. Poor examples.
  - A. Paul wrote:

**1 Cor 11:1** *Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.*

    - 1) Could we recommend to our children, "Follow the example of your Bible class teacher, the man who makes the announcements or leads the opening prayer"? We do, whether or not we expressly say that.
2. Causes indifference to permeate the congregation.
  - A. Even as false doctrine (Gal 5:9) and immorality (1 Cor 5:6) can spread like leaven in a congregation, so also can indifference.
    - 1) Using men who are not committed to the Lord contributes to the spread of indifference in the congregation.
3. Unprepared classes/no learning.
  - A. A half-committed teacher will do a slipshod job of teaching a class.
    - 1) The result will be a class in which the Bible is not taught and the class does not learn.
    - 2) Using half-committed teachers will eventuate in an untaught membership, a biblically illiterate congregation.

#### **IV. ATTRIBUTES OF A GOOD LEADER IN LOCAL CHURCH:**

1. A good leader in the local church will develop the following:

A. Attend public worship with interest and enthusiasm.

**Heb 10:24-25** *And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.*

B. Participate in worship according to ability.

**Acts 2:42** *And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

**1 Tim 2:8** *I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting;*

C. Prepare Bible lesson for classes.

**Acts 17:11** *These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.*

**2 Tim 2:15** *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

D. Be strong in the Lord and serve Him willingly and diligently.

**Rom 6:17** *But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.*

**Eph 6:10-11** *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*

E. Talk to others about the gospel, invite them to church, and arrange private Bible studies with them when possible.

**Phil 2:15-16** *that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.*



**V. CONCLUSION:**

1. What kind of leadership do you think exists in this congregation?
2. Let us resolve to overcome any problems that we as individuals might have concerning indifference and apathy in our life.
3. Let us begin ensuring that dedicated men whose personal zeal for the Lord's kingdom is apparent and whose moral character is impeccable.