

GROWING IN GOD'S WORD

OCTOBER 2014



WELCOME TO LEARN & LEAD!

We're thrilled to have you participate in Learn and Lead. Our prayer is that the next three months would help you develop as a leader, and in turn, your local church would be blessed, and ultimately the nations would be blessed.

Here's an overview of the programme:

WHY?

1. Strengthen future leaders' theology and relationship with God through the Word
2. Prepare leaders and future leaders to understand & function within an apostolic environment

HOW?

1 initial 3 month term (September - November 2014)

- Teaching takes place once-per-month, 8am-12pm on a Saturday at a host church in the northern Gauteng region

Homework

- Homework is for the purpose of getting learners into the habitual, regular study of God's Word, and specifically into scripture which deals with the upcoming month's subject;
- Learner's should plan ahead and schedule time (i.e., daily) to pray and read through material;
- Given 1 month in advance of the Saturday teaching sessions;
- Homework will be the notes from the speaker(s) of the upcoming Saturday sessions. All points in the outline will include exhaustive scripture reference supporting the point being made, which learners will look up.

No tests, per se (this is leadership development, not academia), but rather simple feedback papers:

- Each week in the homework notes will conclude with a question, which the learner must answer in the answer page provided;
- Additionally, after the Saturday teaching, learners will answer the following questions, and email all answers together with the homework answers:
 - What 3 main things have you learned through the material this month?
 - For each of these three learnt concepts, state how they will practically apply to your life as a disciple of Jesus.
 - For each of these three learnt concepts, state how they will practically apply to your present role as a leader in the church.
 - Please describe any other way in which truth you have learned through Learn & Lead this month will apply to your life and/or leadership function.
- Learn & Lead is a complement to the leadership development done by local church elders. An elder from each learner's church will receive the learner's feedback in order to stay abreast of the learner's development.

WHAT (SUBJECTS) & WHEN?

- 13 September - "Growing Deep in the Word"
- 25 October - "Biblical Leadership, Eldership & church governance"
- 22 November - "Apostolic Church and Model"

HOW TO DO HOMEWORK

- One of main reasons for the homework is to simply kick-start a **daily, habitual dependence on the Word of God** (this is a needed habit of all future church leaders!!)
- Therefore it is not simply "homework," as in mere reading, mental assimilation of information. Treat it as intimate time with God. Spend at least 15-20 minutes daily:
 - Reading the material
 - Meditating on the material, especially on any scripture references
 - Talking to God about the material, seeking grace to make the truths taught real in your own life
- Pace yourself as you wish (i.e., anything from splitting each week's material evenly over six days, to reading the entire week each day for six days...whatever works best for you)
- You will find questions at the end of each week's materials. Kindly answer them on the Word document provided.
- Engage your faith: don't approach this as more work to get done in your busy schedule. Approach this as your lifeline, and trust God to use your Learn and Lead studies to accomplish a deep and significant work in your life development as a leader in His Church.



LEARN & LEAD!

MONTH 2: UNDERSTANDING BIBLICAL LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE

MONTH 2 OBJECTIVES:

1. Understand clearly the biblically-revealed purposes of God for His Church;
2. Direct our leadership towards the fulfilment of these purposes;
3. Understand the God-instituted leadership roles for the Church and how to grow in them and/or work together with them;
4. Posture ourselves as “sons” of our local church, so as to become disciples who can make disciples;
5. Grow in biblical leadership characteristics

WEEK 1: 15 – 20 SEPTEMBER

1. WHAT IS THE CALL AND PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH?

The overall call of the church & context in which church leadership exists is “kingdom come” and “conformity to Christ.”

A All leadership in the church exists within these two contexts, and consequently must result in the fulfilment of these two high purposes.

B Kingdom Come: What is “kingdom come?” Disciples of Jesus are called to execute God’s will on the earth. To do so we must **know His will** and **be aggressive with it**.

- i. The basis: we are sons/daughters of God, and, as such, are His authorised representatives
- ii. Genesis 1:26 And God said, Let Us make man in **Our image, after Our likeness**. And let them **have dominion** over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the heavens, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over all the creepers creeping on the earth.
- iii. Saying that man was to be made “in His image” is “son-ship language.” Just as all living creation reproduces “after it’s own kind,” God reproduced Himself after “His own kind” in creating mankind...this was the original, divine intent in creating man...sons and daughters to whom He could entrust his “business”
- iv. Man was created as sons of God to:
 1. “In His image.” Man was created to “re-present” God in the earth
 2. Have **authority** to carry out the business of the Father
- v. Saying that man was to have “dominion” is “kingdom-come” language. The governance of heaven was to be realised into the earth through sons and daughters who’ve been made “in the image” of the One Who has all power and authority
- vi. In Psalms 115:16, we see again how God intends for man to execute the kingdom into the earth: The heavens, even the heavens, are Jehovah’s; but the earth He has given to the sons of men.
 1. This is the reason that Jesus had to come as a man. Authority was given to man, was lost by a man and could only be regained by a man.
 2. After His death and resurrection, Jesus regained, as a man, the authority that had been lost by man (Adam). He then gave us **“authority to become sons of God”** (John 1:12-13) But as many as received him, to **them gave he power to become the sons of God**, even to them that believe on his name: Which were **born**, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of **God**. (KJV)

3. What is the biblical idea of being a “son of God?”
 - a. The purpose of a son is to grow up to be able to execute the business of the Father (Luke 2:49 NKJV):
 - b. John 5:19 Then Jesus answered and said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, **The Son can do nothing of Himself but what He sees the Father do.** For whatever things He does, these also the Son does likewise.
 - c. John 5:30 I can do nothing of My own self. As I hear, I judge, and My judgment is just, because **I do not seek My own will, but the will of the Father who has sent Me.**

- vii. So, as the Church, the sons and daughters of God, who are we? What are we doing here? As leaders in the church, what are we leading people into?
 1. Sons of God are called to mature in Christ so as to once again re-present God & carry out His business in the earth
 2. The Great Commission – “going and making disciples” – is a “kingdom come” calling. It is the spreading of the reign of the kingdom!
Matthew 28: 18-20 Then Jesus came to them and said, **“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go** and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”
 3. Note: the context of the commission is the authority that has been given to Jesus (vs. 18). This is “kingdom-come” language. The kingdom (authority) of God spreading into the earth.
 4. “Therefore go.” The authority of Jesus is the very purpose for which we go. It is not only that His authority empowers us as we go, but spreading it is the reason that we go. Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.
 5. Making disciples is the medium through which the kingdom – the reign of Christ – spreads and multiplies from one person to others.
THIS is what we are leading the church into!
 6. This is why when the disciples asked Jesus how to pray, Jesus taught them to pray “Your **kingdom come**, Your **will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**” (Matthew 6:10)
 7. As sons of God through Jesus we become ambassadors and witnesses of this King on earth:
II Corinthians 5:20 We are therefore **Christ’s ambassadors**, as though God were making His appeal through us. (NIV)
Acts 1: 8 But you shall receive power, the Holy Spirit coming upon you. And you shall be witnesses to Me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and to the end of the earth.
 8. Through the new birth we become again the representatives of the King into the earth, executing His nature & will

C For the most part, the Church has grossly lost its biblical identity and call, and has settled for lesser purposes such as programmes, or even church planting, as important as those things are. We must return to our original biblical roots: **agents of God’s kingdom** and sons being **conformed into the image of the King.**



- D** The Kingdom increasingly comes through people who are being increasingly transformed back into the image of the Son. Herein lies the second great call of the Church: conformity into the image of Jesus.
- i. The church is growing into a full representation of Jesus into the earth
Ephesians 4: 11-13 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up **until** we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and **become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.**
 - ii. We live in the hope of Christ's glory manifesting through us in mature expression
Colossians 1:27-28 To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory.** He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may **present everyone fully mature in Christ.**
 - iii. Fallen creation is longing for the kingdom to be expressed and the image of God once again to be re-presented into the earth
Romans 8:18-19 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. 19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly **waits for the revealing of the sons of God.**
 - iv. God's call to us from the moment of re-birth is to be conformed into the image of His Son, Jesus
Romans 8:29 For those God foreknew he also **predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son,** that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters
 - v. As we behold Jesus with hearts turned to Him, we then become transformed into the image of what we've seen of Him
II Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, **beholding** as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, **are being transformed into the same image** from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

- E** Now what?
- i. Before you take another step forward in church leadership, consider where He is going, so you'll better lead others to that place:
 1. The Church is seeking the execution of Christ's will on earth
 2. The Church is growing into the image of Christ
 3. The medium through which both of these happens is making disciples
 4. How do we participate in the kingdom coming and conformity into Christ's image?
 - a. Seeing Jesus (II Corinthians 3:13-18; John 3:3-5; Romans 12:1-2)
 - b. Aggressively believing in, expecting and doing what we see (Matthew 11:12; Mark 9:23, 11:24; James 2:17-19)
 - c. Teaching others those things we've seen & implemented (Matthew 28:19-20)

Question: Is your leadership in His Church motivated by Christ's primary motivations for the Church? How practically do you feel inspired to be more involved in Christ's 2 primary purposes for His Church?

WEEK 2: 22 – 27 SEPTEMBER

Now that we've seen what the Church is called to do, we can begin discussing the leadership roles Christ has given the Church to carry out this mission. These are primarily: elders, deacons and equipping ministries. (Ephesians 4:11 "equipping ministries" will be dealt with in the next month's material). As one growing in leadership in the church, it is important for you to understand these roles biblically. Whether you are moving towards eldership, deaconship, or just want to grow in leadership and influence, it will help you understand and relate to other leaders in the church, according to their roles, consequently becoming an effective team player in the building of the church. It will help guide you in growing into a body member who is useful to Jesus in the church He is building! (II Timothy 2:21)

2. THE GOVERNANCE OF GOD BEGINS WITH JESUS!

A All authority in heaven and earth have been given to Him (Matthew 28:18).

- i. Therefore, any function of authority and/or leadership in HIS Church must come from His authority!
- ii. Leaders in Christ's Church must first be submitted to the Head of the Church. Anything we do as leaders towards the furtherance of His purposes comes only from a place of submission to Him (John 15:4)
- iii. Leaders in Christ's Church must be submitted and accountable to Christ's delegated authorities in the Church (ie, elders)
- iv. Even all elders and trans-local ministry gifts must themselves be accountable to a local church eldership team. Without this, they are more dangerous than helpful. This applies to any leader, as well any believer. There are many in the Church today who take a place of assumed leadership, but have not made themselves accountable anywhere. Do not be one of these, nor listen to one!

I John 2:18-19 Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists (antichrist = "against Christ") have come, by which we know that it is the last hour. They went out **from us**, but they were **not of us**; for if they had been of us, they would have **continued with us**; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.

B After the resurrection, God made Jesus to be "Lord" (Acts 2:36; Romans 1:3; II Peter 1:11)

- i. Greek word, "kurios," which means "supreme in authority"
- ii. The kingdom has been fully conferred upon Jesus as the reigning King
- iii. It is this kingdom that we seek and live for, and it begins with submission to the King, Jesus

C Jesus has been placed as the Head of the Church (Ephesians 1:22, 5:23; Colossians 1:18)

3. JESUS, THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH, LEADS HIS CHURCH THROUGH DELEGATED LEADERS, CALLED ELDERS

A The description and definition of elders

Acts 20: 28 Therefore **take heed** to yourselves and to **all the flock**, among which the Holy Spirit has made you **overseers**, to **shepherd the church** of God which He purchased with His own blood.

- i. We see in vs. 17 that vs. 28 (above) was spoken to elders (synonymous with "overseers")
- ii. "take heed" –
 1. Note that elders must take heed of themselves first, before taking heed of the flock. We can only lead others where we are going or have gone ourselves!
 2. Elders are leading the Church towards "kingdom come" and "conformity to Jesus." Only those amongst the flock who are personally further along in that process should be in eldership of the flock
 3. Elders watch over the people, they see the condition and needs. They see where the church is going, what it needs to get there and take first responsibility to see it happen

- iii. “overseers” – elders are ultimately responsible for the work of the local church
 1. As those responsible for the local church, they will give an account to Jesus, not only for themselves, but for the flock they oversee
Hebrews 13:17 Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, **as those who must give account**. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.
 2. Elders carry the greatest level of authority in the local church, because they also carry the greatest level of responsibility. In the kingdom, authority is only given to fulfil responsibility. I Timothy 5: 17 Let the elders who **rule well** be counted **worthy of double honour**, especially those who labour in the word and doctrine.
 - a. “rule well” – elders are placed in responsibility/authority for the church
 - b. some elders are paid, some are not, depending on function. Those whose time is primarily given to “ruling” and “laboring in word in doctrine” should be financially supported/honoured by their local church
 - c. All elders, paid and non-paid, should be honoured by those they lead
 - i. Weight given to their words, advice, counsel, etc
 - ii. A heart-posture to receive from, rather than passive and/or resisting
- iv. “shepherd the church” – elders do not only “oversee” from an “above” position. Elders also “shepherd,” they lead from amongst, out in front. Personal involvement in the lives of people is essential.
 1. This is why the bible directs that elders must be hospitable. Personal involvement in lives is critical to shepherd and disciple (I Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8)
- v. “Holy Spirit has made you overseers”
 1. it is important to recognize that, though elders are fallible humans, God is the One Who has appointed them
 2. Any believer, especially a mature believer, should therefore have a healthy respect for the person(s) occupying the office
 3. Any believer should eagerly seek counsel and perspective from eldership, expecting to receive through them from the One who placed them as elders over them
- vi. “Overseers” (plural)
 1. Local churches need to be led by a **plurality** of elders
 2. The Trinity begins the pattern of leadership in the context of team, each member contributing different abilities
 3. The ability to work in team, to be a team player is absolutely vital to functioning as an elder
 - a. Are we yielding in how we communicate?
 - b. Can we be led by a leader?
 - c. Do we know how to yield our one perspective to fit into the larger, collective team perspective?

B Any man can desire to become an elder

I Timothy 3:1 This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop (elder / overseer) he desires a good work.

- i. The suggestion is that it is encouraged to desire the position/work
- ii. The church needs many men who want to rise up into this responsibility and authority! Go after it, pursue, posture yourself to grow into it.
- iii. Eldership is not according to one’s gifts. Eldership is based upon your spiritual maturity, character and leadership/governance ability



C Requirements for qualifying for eldership (I Timothy 3:1-11; Titus 1:6-9; I Peter 5:1-11)

D Now what?

- i. For the believer seeking to grow in greater kingdom leadership:
 1. Make sure that you are relating properly to God's government and order!
 2. Any leadership in the Church must not only relate to Jesus as Lord, but, in that, be submitted and accountable to those whom that same Jesus has placed over them
 3. Posture yourself to follow and learn from your elders
 4. Make it easy for your elders to lead you! Be obedient and submissive
Hebrews 13:17 **Obey** those who rule over you, **and be submissive**, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. **Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.**
 5. Settle in your heart that your leadership in Christ's church is only in order inasmuch as it is following behind those who have the ultimate responsibility for the church in which you lead
 6. Tithe. Make sure you are contributing to the honour of those who "rule well, especially those who labor in word and doctrine" (I Timothy 5:17). Should you be leading if you are not demonstrating this first level of buy-in and honour of your local church?
 7. Ask yourself: what elder am I sharing my life with and inviting input? Would they say I am doing this? Every believer needs such a person in their lives to grow.
- ii. For the man "desiring the position of an elder":
 1. All of the above!! (#1-6)
 2. Communicate your desires to your eldership team & work closely with them in the development of your gifts and leadership role
 3. Be happy to simply serve. Otherwise, if you aren't, you will misuse authority for something other than serving.
 4. Take care and initiative in the spiritual development of others
 5. Begin placing the needs of the church over your own, loving them as Christ does
 6. Seek discipleship from at least one of the elders. If you are going to lead in making disciples, you need to be a disciple
 7. Meditate on the requirements of eldership and seek for them to be a reality in your life (refer to "c" above)

Question: Based on this week's content, are you biblically relating in Christ's Church according to the governance of heaven? How might your relationship with Jesus need to adjust? Practically, how does your relationship with eldership need to adjust?

WEEK 3: 29 SEPTEMBER – 4 OCTOBER

4. WORKING CLOSELY ALONGSIDE ELDERS ARE DEACONS, WHO SACRIFICIALLY LAY DOWN THEIR LIVES TO SERVE JESUS, ELDERSHIP AND THE FLOCK

Acts 6:1-8 Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. 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; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word." 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, whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them. Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

A Though the text does not specify that these men were being appointed as deacons, the picture here is certainly perfectly consistent with the biblical idea of a deacon

B The term deacon (Greek "diakonos") simply means a "servant." In the New Testament it is used organically to describe any believer, apostolic leader and even Jesus as servants (1 Corinthians 3:5-6; Ephesians 3:7; Romans 15:8). However, it is also used more formally to refer to an official role or office in the local church (Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 3:8-13)

C Deacon rule #1: servants of Jesus

- i. This is the platform upon which a person becomes a deacon
- ii. After elders, deacons should be first in line from amongst the flock to see the job get done, no matter the cost
- iii. Like elders, deacons **live for Jesus**, and what Jesus lives for, **His Bride**

D Deacon rule #2: servants of elders

- i. Note that these men were helping so that the apostles (the then-elders of the Jerusalem church) did not have to "leave the word of God and serve tables," but could "give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word"
 1. Deacons should feel personally sickened to see elders becoming encumbered by menial tasks that aren't related to their God-given task of ruling, overseeing, shepherding and ministering the word.
 2. Why was it important to relieve the elders? So that the elders could be "honoured" and sit around, lazily barking orders? No, deacons relieve elders in an effort to see the church advance! In the governance of God, the first step of a healthy, thriving church is for Jesus to be doing in the Church what He is called to do: be Lord, the Head and the focus of worship. After that, an advancing church needs its eldership to be released to focus on "ruling well" and "labouring in word and doctrine" (1 Timothy 5:17)
 3. Notice that the result was that "the Word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem."
 - a. Releasing elders to focus on "ruling well" and "laboring in the Word and doctrine" (1 Timothy 5:17) results in the spread of Christ's reign
 4. Deacons are therefore team-players at heart, who, for the sake of Christ and His mission relieve elders to release them into their critical leadership roles so that the mission of the church can be accomplished!
 5. We must build a culture where **all** believers are servants. Each simply has a different function. Elders **serve** by leading and overseeing. Deacons are given **office** simply because of their maturity and because they take initiative in what all believers should be doing: laying down their lives to get the job done!

E

Deacon rule #3: servants of the flock

- i. The nature of what these seven men did was not only for the sake of elders, but had direct benefit to the general flock
- ii. Deacons' service should have explicit benefit for the people
 - 1. This could include cleaning, hospitality functions, overseeing practical ministries, etc
- iii. Deacons mustn't only do the work of serving, but have a passion for serving Jesus, eldership and people.
- iv. From "Well of Life Christian International Deacons Training" pg. 21:
"Unhappy deacons have not caught on to the fact:
 - a. That in being a deacon, they have stumbled in on issues of destiny, of eternity and of profound significance;
 - b. That this thing of being a deacon is about investing in the lives of men and women, and, apart from worshipping God, there is no greater privilege in the Cosmos;
 - c. That you could play a part in helping bring people into their destiny;
 - d. That you were able to help shape and transform people into something (they probably could not have become on their own.)"

F

Deacons carry **spiritual** weight and require **spiritual** maturity (they aren't just church "gopher boys")

- i. The requirements of these first deacons:
 - 1. "Good reputation": Before being set in as a deacon, the congregation should know the individual as someone who is respected, trusted and of character.
 - a. Is church something included in the persons life, or is Jesus' church the passion of their lives? Deacons can only be of the latter
 - b. Otherwise, the work will too quickly become a duty, and the sour attitude become more of a burden to eldership than a relief
 - c. A deacon's reputation must be such that the people would recognise them as meeting the requirements of "good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom"
 - 2. "full of the Holy Spirit": Deacons need to be leading in Christ-likeness, people who passionately love and feel their need of the Holy Spirit
 - a. Note: two of the seven original deacons went on to have noteworthy, powerful ministries:
 - i. Phillip became an evangelist who first pioneered the Gospel into Samaria, and also into North Africa
 - ii. Stephen preached the Gospel while being martyred, witnessing to Saul, who later became Paul the Apostle
 - iii. Deacons need to be people who are growing in Spirit-empowered, missional living, not just people who are willing to take care of some things
 - b. Deacons should be baptised in the Holy Spirit, regularly seeking the infilling of the Spirit, and regularly practicing the gifts of the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18)
 - 3. "full of wisdom": Deacons must possess practical wisdom so as to be entrusted with leading/ carrying out practical functions
 - a. Does the person have good people skills?
 - b. Does the person possess organisational skills?
 - c. Is the person reliable and dependable, or do they drop balls when things are inconvenient? Are they forgetful?

G

Requirements for qualifying for deaconship (1 Timothy 3:8-13)

H

Now what?

- i. If you are a deacon or moving towards possible deaconship:
 - 1. Avail yourself to the Head of the Church (how about right now?) to do WHATEVER needs to be done, or at least to be part of the solution.
 - 2. Look at your elders. Are they getting encumbered with secondary or tertiary service? Do what it takes to correct that!

3. What is the vision that the Lord has given to your eldership for your local church? Ask the Lord to work it deeply into your heart, to the point that the rest of your life comes behind it, seeking a place of fulfilling the vision. (If the vision came from Jesus, and if Jesus placed you in your church, then you're not going very far in divine purpose until this happens!)
4. What needs to get done in the local church, or isn't getting done? Become the solution! If leadership skills are developing in you, avail yourself to your eldership to help "rally the troops" to get things done
5. Get FULL of the Holy Spirit. Pray in tongues regularly. Seek the presence of the Lord and the anointing of the Spirit daily.

Question: Where do you feel you are fulfilling the biblical mandate and stature of deaconship? In what way will you need to improve? How will you do this?

WEEK 4: 6 – 11 OCTOBER

5. CHARACTERISTICS OF CHURCH LEADERS. WHETHER DEACONS, ELDERS, OR OTHERS, ANYONE GROWING IN LEADERSHIP IN A CHURCH CONTEXT WILL NEED TO BE STRONG IN THESE AREAS:

A Love & passion for Jesus

- i. The Church was birthed by Jesus' passion for us, and her purpose will be fulfilled by those whose hearts fill with reciprocal passion for Him
- ii. How can you develop in this area?
 1. Tuck in close with others who are passionate. Get with them and ask them to help you grow in your relationship with Him.
 2. Whatever you feed is what grows. Are you feeding your love for earthly things? Make sure that fellowship with Jesus gets THE top priority of your calendar.

B Dependence upon God's Word

- i. "Kingdom come" and "conformity into the image of Jesus" both happen through first beholding Jesus and His kingdom
- ii. We see Him and His kingdom through the Word
- iii. The fulfillment of our purpose is literally dependant upon the entrance of His Word into our hearts (Colossians 3:16; James 1:21; 1 Peter 2:2)
- iv. How can you develop in this area?
 1. Get a plan for bible study
 - a. Don't haphazardly study scripture, have a plan
 - b. Choose what you're going to study, then study it through to completion (ie, a particular book of the bible, a subject, etc)
 - c. Journal daily anything you feel you see, "hear" or learn
 2. Place huge priority on input from equipping gifts (Ephesians 4:11). Do not casually treat equipping moments (Sunday morning, Equip, etc)...hang on each word, take notes, and then spend time in prayer over those notes

C Kingdom-first lifestyle

- i. "Kingdom come" happens amongst a people who do what Jesus taught us to do: to **"seek first the Kingdom of God"** (Matthew 6:33)
- ii. A culture of "kingdom first" is simply made by church leaders who live with that heart posture. The rest of the flock will follow.

- iii. How can you develop in this area?
 1. Commit your way to Him, determine that you will follow Jesus
 2. Practically, commit to regularly getting direction from God’s Word and Spirit. Let the Word and the direction and witness of the Spirit be your basis for making decisions and the light that guides you.

D Honour elders & be submitted

Hebrews 13:17 Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, **as those who must give account**. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

- i. The saying proves true: “never submit to a person who is not submitted to people.” If you are an emerging leader, and by nature will have people following you, you really are on a path of doing damage if you haven’t first gotten this in place.
- ii. Be submissive and honouring to elders. Live your life teach-ably before them. Regularly ask for perspective and invite input into your life. God will honour you as you take that posture. It honours Him and His governance. (Proverbs 11:14)
- iii. Make sure your elders find “joy” and not “grief” as they lead you. If they are grieved in leading you it is “unprofitable **for you**.” (Hebrews 13:17)
- iv. Relieve elders
 1. Do not be demanding or complaining. It adds burden, rather than lifting it.
 2. Be bigger than the problems. The closer you work with elders, the closer you see the problems in the church. Elders have to continuously find grace to be bigger than the problems, rather than being emotionally sidelined by them. Deacons **MUST** take the same stance in order to be a help, rather than an additional burden
 3. Take initiative in finding solutions. Never dump “what needs to be done” on elders. Whatever we dump on an elder represents one more leadership function not getting done by that elder, thus hampering momentum.
- v. Be motivated to build the bigger picture – not just your “own” calling

Luke 16:12 And if you have not been faithful in what is another man’s, who will give you what is your own?

 1. Every church leader **will** go through this test. Before God entrusts us with the full scope of God’s purpose for our lives, we must become faithful in serving another man’s calling. Nothing else prepares us for our own.
 2. Be disciplined and get behind the vision of someone else. It is the only context in which God’s vision for your life will rightly come to the surface.

E Team player

- i. The church is a team, and as you grow in leadership you come closer to the centre of that team
- ii. To the degree that the players in the centre of that team are self-focused, momentum and growth will be hampered and delayed
- iii. Some characteristics of team players:
 1. Team players are dependable
 - a. They make choices based on the greater picture, not personal feelings or convenience
 - b. They follow-through with commitments
 - i. Show up on time for meetings and events
 - ii. Carry things whether you are personally “on duty” or not
 - c. They are lead by principle and responsibility, not feelings



2. Team players take great care in how they speak to teammates
 - a. Anyone who drags the team down through their communication and spirit should rather not be on the team for the sake of the church's momentum!
 - b. Be up. Always be full of faith.
 - c. Affirm others on team
 - d. Avoid competition and the quest for recognition like the plague! (No, really...they are as dangerous to a team as a plague!)

F Lovers of truth

- i. Leaders must master the art of giving truth to those who aren't yet seeing it
- ii. Tyrone Daniel, leader of the NCMI trans-local team, says the #1 responsibility of elders is to "guard the Gospel":
 1. Leaders in the church must primarily be leading the church into Truth
 2. Doing this is often quite uncomfortable! Get used to this!
- iii. Overcoming rejection
 1. Church leaders, particularly elders, are constantly in the place of being rejected or jeopardizing relationship for the sake of saying what needs to be said
 2. Settle in your heart that you **love Jesus and His truth more** than you love people's acceptance and pleasure in you
- iv. Get behind your leaders when they have to take a difficult stand to side with truth

G Good leaders lead

- i. Leaders must have vision in order to lead
- ii. Leaders must relentlessly stay ON TOP of things until the vision or task is accomplished
- iii. Leaders must encounter obstacles and overcome them
- iv. Leaders must never give up
- v. Leaders must inspire others with what they, themselves, are inspired by

H Communication

- i. As you reach out or disciple people in the church, communicate "pastoral updates" to those leading the church
- ii. Take initiative in communicating with others on the team
 1. Help create a vibe of enthusiasm and passion!
- iii. Take initiative in communicating your own personal development to those who are discipling you
 1. Communicate your struggles, your victories, your desires for growth, and seek input from elders who "watch over your soul"
- iv. Learn to communicate in such a way that people:
 1. Understand **what** you are saying, and
 2. Understand **why** you are saying it

I Large-capacity

Isaiah 54:2-3 **Enlarge the place of your tent**, And let them **stretch out the curtains** of your dwellings; Do not spare; **Lengthen your cords**, And strengthen your stakes. For you shall **expand** to the right and to the left, And your descendants will inherit the nations, And make the desolate cities inhabited.

- i. Leadership in one sense is simply increasing one's capacity
- ii. In addition to leading and caring for themselves, leaders additionally take upon themselves the leadership and care of others
 1. Stretch yourself! You CAN'T stay in your comfort zone AND effectively lead God's people

2. Face fears, don't shape your lives around the avoidance of them (fears are a huge capacity inhibitor)
3. What is your vision & purpose? Where are you going in God? What things are acceptable in your life today that will not "make it" there? Go ahead and prepare, enlarge, make room now for what your prophetically see in your future. Preparation today somehow hastens God's purposes.

J Confidence

- i. To lead one must be confident. God designed us to follow confidence, and it is true in the Church
- ii. Where does confidence in spiritual leadership come from?
 1. Confidence comes from being settled in our Sonship
Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore **come boldly** to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
 - a. When we KNOW we have access to God and that God is with us, we can become confident in spiritual leadership
 2. Confidence comes from hearing Jesus. When we know we've heard from Him, we have divine energy through faith to lead ourselves and others into what He said. Hearing Jesus trumps any natural-born talent and leadership skill every time!
- iii. Confidence in spiritual leadership comes from having big faith
 1. Confident sons of God hear their Father, and believe the impossible. They are able to then push through mountains and push through self-limitations. This is the kind of leadership Jesus' Church requires!
- iv. Emerging leaders who are shaky in their "sonship" identity should take to the task of daily meditating upon and praying over scriptures having to do with the Gospel (Jesus' sacrificial death and resurrection) and sonship

K Tithers

- i. Matthew 6:21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
 1. The Church needs leaders who put Christ's interests, namely His Church/Bride, first in their lives
 2. Our budget and bank statements are the ultimate testimony of what our true priorities are, and where our heart actually is
 3. To develop a culture of "kingdom-first" and a culture of generosity, we need leaders who **at least** tithe
- ii. What is "tithe?" Tithe is simply a word meaning "tenth," meaning the giving of 10% of all we earn into God's work
- iii. Though we are free in the New Covenant through grace, that grace should **lift** us to beyond what the tithing Israelites gave under the Old Covenant law. Something is askew if "by grace" we give less than worshippers did without grace.
- iv. Tithing is a floor, not a ceiling. We start there and want to grow in faith and generosity from there. We want to become like our Father, Who "so loved the world that **He gave** His only begotten Son" (John 3:16).

Question: From this week's list, what are your top three strongest leadership characteristics? What are your weakest three? How do you feel inspired to improve?

WEEK 5 – 13 – 18 OCTOBER

GROWING IN CALLING AND LEADERSHIP IN GOD'S HOUSE AS A SON.

The Word of God has provided a wonderful model for us to follow in preparation for service in God's House. Possibly the most important attitude we can have towards God's House has to do with our identity within it. Those who take ownership and responsibility over God's House as sons will hold the honour and glory of God's House close to heart. This is in opposition to merely serving within, or standing apart from it in the shoes of a spectator, critic or 'spiritual advisor'. A son is home grown, and according to the scriptures is the one who gains the inheritance. (Genesis 15:2 – 4)

1. JESUS – OUR EXAMPLE OF SONSHIP

Jesus shows us what it means to be a son who carries the concern of His Father's house.

Luke 2:44 – 52 The Boy Jesus in the Temple (ESV)

41 Now his *parents* went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. 42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. 43 And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, 44 but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, 45 and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. 46 After three days they found him in the temple, *sitting among the teachers, listening* to them and asking them questions. 47 And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. 48 And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." 49 And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that *I must be in my Father's house?*" 50 And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. 51 And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was *submissive* to them. And his mother *treasured up* all these things in her heart. 52 And Jesus *increased in wisdom* and in *stature* and in favor with *God* and *man*.

A Jesus knows He is God's child

The most significant words in this passage are Jesus' question to His earthly parents 'Did you not know I had to be in my Father's house?'

The first step is understanding that God is your Father. Submission to Him is of utmost priority!

B Jesus submits Himself to Human Authority

Secondly, we recognize that God has human authority in place for each of His children to submit to.

- I. **Parents** – submissive to them, to the point of treasured appreciation within his mother's heart.
- II. **Teachers** – sitting among them, listening to them
- III. **Feasts & Customs** – Jesus submitted Himself to and supported the customs of his day, his people and his country.

C Jesus' character and influence grew and increased over time.

- I. **Wisdom** – comes with listening to others
- II. **Stature** – maturity comes by fitting the wisdom we have received to the suitable application, this is learnt over time.
- III. **Favour with God** – grace with God is freely given; understand your need of His grace.
- IV. **Favour with man** – grace with men is earned and is rewarded on the basis of proof

It is while Jesus is in apparent obscurity for approximately 30 years that God is preparing Him under the parenting of Joseph and Mary. The long preparation results in a powerful 3½-year ministry under the guidance of the Father in Heaven. Let us not make light of long, patient preparation before we reach prominent use in God's House, what we learn in obscurity, we will apply in the light.

QUESTION:

Why does it seem somewhat counter-intuitive to submit and humble yourself in order to grow and increase in wisdom, stature and favour? How good are you at applying this in your life?

2. JESUS IS ASSURED OF HIS SONSHIP

Luke 3:21 - 22 (ESV)

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

Before Jesus begins His ministry, God uses two things to assure him:

A The Holy Spirit

- I. Anointing Jesus for Service (Acts 10:38)

B The Word of the Father

- I. Acceptance & Love 'beloved'
- II. Identity (Adoption) 'Son'
- III. Approval 'Well Pleased'

Security and courage are necessary before we embark on work in God's House. To be insecure about God's love, your identity in Him or the basis of your approval, is an open door for the enemy. From here, Jesus is led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil's temptations. If there were any questions in Jesus' mind about God's backing on his life, he would have been an easy pick for the enemy. God therefore ensured that Jesus had the assurance of His identity by Word and by Spirit, before ministering in any way.

If Jesus needed it, so do we!

QUESTION:

In what ways would you link the infilling of the Holy Spirit to the assurance of Sonship and the power to witness to the ends of the earth?

3. JESUS APPLIES HIMSELF TO HIS SONSHIP (SUBMITTING TO HIS FATHER)

- A Jesus doesn't Speak on His Own Authority (John, 12:49, 14:10, 15:15)

- B Jesus doesn't Act on His Own Authority (John 8:28, 10:37)

- C Jesus submits His Will to the Father's Will (Matthew 26:39, 42)



4. JESUS APPEALS TO HIS SONSHIP

- A His Prayers are answered by the Father (Matthew 18:19)
- B Forgiveness is granted by the Father (Matthew 18:33-35)
- C Reward is offered by the Father (Matthew 25:34)
- D Protection is available from the Father (Matthew 26:53)
- E The Outpouring of the Spirit's Power is Promised by the Father (Luke 24:49)

Because Jesus is the Son:

- I. He is able to appeal to the Father for any of His needs (the Lord's Prayer)
- II. Was able to make these offers on behalf of the Father knowing that He is a son.

QUESTION:

What is the basis of your appeal before God? Why would He respond to you?

5. JESUS AGONIZES AS A SON

A friend loves at all times but a brother is born for adversity (Proverbs 17:17). True brothers are willing to face hardship for the sake of the family. Jesus, as a son who knows his Father's heart for the sheep willingly lays down His life for the same. (John 10:15 – 18)

6. JESUS IS AWARDED AS A SON

Hebrews 5:7 – 10 (ESV)

7 In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. 8 Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. 9 And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, 10 being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

Jesus is exalted to the place of High Priest and the one designated as the source of eternal salvation.

7. GREATER HONOUR OF SON'S

The writer to the Hebrews makes a clear distinction between the faithfulness of a servant in the house of God and the faithfulness of a son over the house of God.

Hebrews 3:1 – 6 (ESV)

1 Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession, 2 who was faithful to him who appointed him, just as Moses also was faithful in all God's house. 3 For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses — as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself. 4 (For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.) 5 Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, 6 but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.

- A The honour and glory of the builder of a house is greater than the house itself.
- B Moses was faithful in Israel as a servant, serving God, the builder of the nation in which He chose to dwell. However, Jesus fulfils the role of servant in the house of God just as Moses did, but is greater than Moses because He is favoured as the one who is over the house.
- C There is a sense of ownership and honour that comes with being a son, which a servant will fall short of.

QUESTION:

Why is it important to understand your Sonship in order to be used effectively in the building of God's house?

8. JESUS IS THE HEIR OF ALL THINGS

Hebrews 1:1

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

It is clear that Jesus acquires a great inheritance, having created the earth through Jesus, now by His faithfulness in redemption is the rightful redeemer of all creation.

9. AS IT GOES FOR THE TEACHER, SO IT GOES FOR THE STUDENT!

Mike Hanchett has a humorous and effective way of introducing one of his messages by asking the congregation if there are any who would like to be a servant of God by raising their hands. "Shame on you!" is his response as he declares that God has called us to be friends and not servants (John 15:15). He then asks if anyone would like to be a friend of God. After hands are raised he again says "Shame on you!" declaring that God has not called us to be friends but to be children of God! (1 John 3:1)

Romans 8:14 - 17 (ESV)

14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" 16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

It has always been God's intention to include us as sons and daughters. More than just familial inclusion, we also share in the responsibility and reward of being about the Father's house.



QUESTION:

How would your attitude towards:

- a) The preparation of God,
- b) The on-going ministry He has for you
- c) And the way in which He ultimately rewards you,

Change in any way by understanding your position and identity as a Son (or daughter)?

How would your attitude in each of these areas differ if you simply saw yourself as a servant or a friend of God?

A PRACTICAL OUTLINE FOR TRUE SONSHIP IN GOD'S HOUSE FROM 1 & 2 TIMOTHY.

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, having received authority from God to father and mentor men and woman in the churches encourages us to "be imitators of him, as he is of Christ". His goal is for us to be imitators of God as beloved children (Ephesians 5:1). Jesus represented the Father in perfect copy (Hebrews 1:3, Colossians 1:15) as God's son. Paul, knowing He is a child of God (Romans 8:16) represents the Son to others. In so doing draws followers who become sons to him in the faith. (E.g.: Timothy, Titus). His encouragement to the church is to consider and look to his spiritual sons for the same example that they are able to replicate in others...

This is how the family tree of God's House grows – from Christ, to follower to son and on...

1 Corinthians 4:14 - 17 (ESV)

14 I do not write these things to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. 15 For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. 16 I urge you, then, be imitators of me. 17 That is why I sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere in every church.

Churches everywhere are impacted when we become like children who follow the ways of Christ displayed in those like Timothy, who imitate those like Paul.

From Paul's letters to His true and beloved son in the faith, Timothy, we can learn a lot about what it practically means to be a true son in God's house.

1 Timothy: A True Son...

1. Is born again

- A To Timothy, my true child in the faith. (1:2)
 - I. "You must be born again (John 3:7)
 - II. Every one of these practices will flow as fruit from the fact that we are new creations in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17)
 - III. Our adoption into God's family (Ephesians 1:5, Galatians 5:4) means we also adopt spiritual parents.



2. Is able to receive Instructions & to do lists from a father

A "I urge you..." (1:3 – 17)

B "I charge you..." (1:18 – 20)

3. Knows and has his fathers testimony

A "Formerly I was a blasphemer..." (1:12 – 16)

B Protects his father's honour. We often know things about our fathers that we should protect. Unlike Noah's sons who uncovered their fathers nakedness. (Genesis 9:22, 23)

4. Receives from the father

A I received... I entrust to you (1:13, 16, 18)

- I. Have a 'look, learn and listen' attitude.
- II. It's not always your turn to give (advice, comment, opinion...)
- III. Children receive inheritances from fathers

B Submits his life to his father in humility

- I. "The prophecies previously made about you..." (1:18)
- II. Understand that the grace you receive, someone else worked for!

QUESTION: Have you submitted yourself to the process of father – son (mother – daughter) preparation in your own life and in your own church? Ask God to reveal the authenticity of this relationship to you.

5. Is a person of prayer

A Having a heart of prayer (2:1)

B Finding solutions in Prayer (2:8)

C Fathers know what it means to pray and have a track record of answered prayer, therefore

D Learn from them and pray!

6. Knows how to handle the family!

A Daughters & mothers - Understand the opposite sex and God's mandate to them (2:9-15)

B Keeps His own family well cared for (3:2 – 12)



7. Knows how to uphold the conduct of the household

A "If I delay..." (3:15) Especially when the father is away.

8. Receives wisdom from his father (4:1)

A "Listen my son" (Proverbs 1:8)

B They've learnt many trials and pains... (1 John 2:12 – 14) Listen!

C They've seen people come and go, they know how to handle them.

D Listen to their warnings! (4:7)

I. Learn how to receive a "no"

E Learn from their disciplines (4:8)

9. Seeks advice before acting - especially on major decisions...

A Learn what's good and valuable from their counsel and perspective (4:4,8)

B They understand life, they have been around.

C They have learnt the heavenly perspective.

10. Understands that he is not the 'only begotten' son

A Remember you have brothers (4:6)

B Fathers have more than one son. (Titus)

C Therefore, be a brother. Encourage the other sons. This pleases the father

D Fathers have no favourites.

11. Are not negligent

A A father's heart is to care for the whole family

I. Be responsible (4:14)

II. Don't be negligent

III. Fathers understand urgency, sons often let things lie... don't wait to see how things work out, make them happen.

IV. Fathers are men of action, so take action!

12. Acts maturely

- A Age and lack of maturity, youth, is no excuse! (4:12)
- B Be an example of faith in Jesus
- C Don't have to be perfect
- D Show people you are trusting God and be an example of:
 - I. Speech – The Word and everyday conversation, not course joking or swearing. A tongue in check is the fruit of a soul in check.
 - II. Life – people are watching to see what decisions you make and how you reference God or your father.
 - III. Love – Receive and give at all times
 - IV. Faith – take calculated risks, act on God's word, and be courageous.
 - V. Purity – flee the passions of youth (2 Timothy 2:22)

QUESTION:

Though the relationship of spiritual fathering and Sonship (not excluding the women) comes into view here, the most important aspect is the heart attitude. Timothy, though young, "fathered" many in the church who were older than him. Jesus was only about 30 and He fathered many! Could it be that you are being fathered by someone younger than you? How would you put yourself into the son (follower) role in this case?

13. Uses the gifts and opportunities that have been given

- A Use your gifts – they are unique to you (4:13 & 14)
- B Develop them! Fan them into flame (2 Timothy 1:6)

14. Shows evidence of progress to all!

- A Diligence is required. Be a disciplined one. (disciple)
- B Samuel grew in wisdom, stature and grace. (1 Samuel 2:26)
- C Jesus grew in wisdom, stature and grace. (Luke 2:40)
- D David learnt to have greater capacities through greater victories. How have you done against the lion, the bear and the giant?

15. Has a keen eye on sound doctrine

- A Watch your doctrine closely (4:16)
- B Work hard at learning and applying doctrine for the sake of faith in the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, 2 Timothy 1:8-13



- C Don't be attracted to be the next best or latest thing.
- D Good old teachings, ancient paths. (Heard from grandmothers... (2 Timothy 1:5)

16. Is inclusive!

- A Has a heart for the whole family (reiterated!)
- B Old, young, widows, single, married, rich or poor (5:1-16)
- C ALL - not locked into one 'click'
- D Don't try to be the father or mother, represent them.
- E There should be no hierarchy or superiority

1 Timothy 5:1, 2

Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers, 2 older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity.

Treat older men and woman with encouragement and respect even if a rebuke is required. Treat younger as brothers. At no point do you act like they are your sons and daughters. Any older are like fathers and any younger are like brothers.

17. Provides for and takes care of his father's household as if it were his own.

- A If a father is away, check to see that his wife is ok (5:8)
- B A father is responsible for his family, show the same heart.

18. Honours where honour is due (5:17)

- A Eli had wicked sons – and brought dishonour (1 Samuel 2:12 – 36, 4:12 – 22)
 - I. Beware of selfishness, care of self, a 'get' mentality.
- B Learn to bring honour to God, to your father and to the house of God.
- C Jesus glorified His Father by accomplishing the word given to him (John 17:4)
- D Make sure you provided for those who work hard and well – honour in this sense is financial provision. (5:17 – 19)
- E Deal with sin in elders (fathers) to maintain honour in the house.
 - I. Only admit a charge privately on the evidence of more than one, however, never pick the side of the majority against the father.
 - II. Always defend, show unity
 - III. If there is sin and it is persistent, then and then only, rebuke in the presence of all.
 - IV. Sensitively, to bring the fear of God to all – be careful how you do it. (Galatians 6:1)
 - V. Gently
 - VI. With an aim to restore!

- F If you have disagreement, learn to maturely and objectively be in disagreement without breaking faith or covenant – watch then what message you are communicating while you strive to reach unity.

QUESTION:

Have you entertained gossip against a father in the past? In what way can you show the fruit of repentance and honour your father when He is present and when He is not around?

19. Are patient.

- A Do not be hasty. (5:22)
- B Through patience and faith we receive the promises of God.
- C My times are in your hands (Joseph, David)
- D God is never too fast (seems so at times)
- E He is never too slow, always on time!
- F He knows what we still need to learn.

20. Are Faithful Stewards

- A To guard what has been entrusted to your care (6:20) is to treat things given to you, better than if it was your own – treat it as if it belongs to the Master and He will inspect what you have been faithful with or not.
- B There is a point at which the fathers house belongs to the son, but do not presume on it before its time. It's not yours!
- C Do not treat your birth right and inheritance as if it's lentil soup. Many trials and hungers and difficulties will come your way, it is then that you do not sell short the investment that God has made. Guard, with His help, the deposit which guarantees the future inheritance! (2 Timothy 1: 12-14, Genesis 25:29 – 34)
- D Stay focused. (6:20)
 - I. Don't swerve off to irreverent, contradictory and false teachings. Stay focused!

2 Timothy: A True Son...

1. Is bold (1:7)

2. Passes the tests (1:15)

- A When everyone else is deserting, will you stay? (4:16)
- B In the presence of persecution & chains (1:16)



- C Hardships (2:3)
- D Hard Working (2:6)
- E Suffering (2:9)
- F Endure anything for the sake of the Gospel (2:10)

3. Teaches others (2:2)

- A Here we see what may be called the 2-2-2 principal:
Jesus – to – Paul – to – Timothy – to – faithful men – to others...
- B If you want to be a father, be a son. Sons become fathers!
- C We reap what we sow! Don't pass on what you never want to receive. The way you follow your father, is the way sons will follow you! (Galatians 6:6 – 10)

4. Is close, present and interested!

- A Get close! Be there, be present. (3:10)
- B A father shouldn't need to ask "where are my sons?"
- C Stand close in prayer
- D Go with on trips
- E Be around - at hand.
- F Be early and on time.
- G Be together in leading from the front. (Joshua & Moses)

5. Knows His father well! (3:14)

- A What pleases him...
- B What burdens him...

QUESTION:

Loyalty to the Kingdom is displayed in your loyalty to the individuals who have taught and lived the Kingdom for you. Do you know the desires and dreams of the father in your house? Do you know what they find difficult? How can you support them personally and for the sake of the house (local church)?



6. Stays in the Word (3:15)

- A Prepared at any time
- B Read with a preach in the pocket for Sunday, Wednesday, Friday morning...
- C Prepare yourself as if it's 'your turn this weekend', yet not.

7. Completes His tasks

- A Discharge all the duties you have in ministry (4:5)
- B Without grumbling
- C Look for more to do when you have completed a task – don't do the bare minimum, there is always another person to contact or shepherd...

8. Is a good fighter and a good runner

- A Fight your own battles so that you can fight for his! Yours are NB but secondary.
- B You are in his race! Settle it!
- C If He finishes well, so do you!!!
- D If the father doesn't finish well, nor do you.
- E Stay Spiritually fit

9. A friend to the fathers friends

- A Build relationship with his friends, family and partners. (4:11)
- B His teammates, make them yours... this is helpful when you consider that the father of a house has apostolic partnership and has built on foundations that you yourself will need to continue to build on, while having learnt the heart, you will know which team members to build with for yourself and for the sake of the house (local church).

10. Alert to the arch-enemies (4:14, 15)

- A Be careful of his enemies, they are yours too.
- B Pray for them, protect them, praise God for them!

"I am the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of Israel"

QUESTION:

Have you settled in your heart that those who are over us in the Lord will often hear from God on our behalf? A true father will always encourage their son to hear God for themselves. Have you submitted your dreams, visions and plans to a father who can confirm God's plans and processes in your life?

WEEK 6: 20-25 OCTOBER

CHARACTER UNDERGIRDING CHARISMA

Overview

In a particular sense, we can reduce our lives to two categories: 1. Our gifts or charisma (the gifts we have are not us, they are endowments from God.). 2. Our character or core attributes. Often people are promoted on the basis of their gifts, while their character is ignored. This leads to disaster because it is only our character that is able to uphold our charisma.

Godly character is what will keep us stable in trouble and temptation. But with bad, ungodly character, we will fail when trouble comes and yield when faced with temptation.

I. Teachableness (Meekness) and Humility

- A There is conflict between the culture of the Kingdom of God and every other culture.
 - 1. There is even conflict between the culture of the Kingdom of God and church culture.
 - 2. The church Jesus is building has a Kingdom of God culture, not a church culture.
 - a. Church culture is inward and self-focused
 - b. Kingdom culture is outward and others-focused
 - c. Church culture is self-serving
 - d. Kingdom culture serves the heart of God by serving the community and world it is in, without prejudice
- B Teachableness and humility are norms in the culture of the kingdom of God.
- C Unteachableness and pride are norms in the culture around us and in churches without kingdom of God values.
 - 1. If we are not teachable and humble we cannot grow into maturity.
 - 2. We will regress into more selfishness.
- D Matthew 11:28-30 - 28) Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29) Take My yoke upon you and learn from (of) Me, for I am meek (teachable) and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30) For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.
 - 1. This is the only place in scripture where Jesus tells us specifically to learn something of Him.
 - 2. Jesus could have said, "For I am wonderful and powerful." He is wonderful and powerful but he didn't say that. He said, "I am meek (teachable) and humble."
 - 3. Meekness and Humility are probably the 2 most important things from His life we need in our lives.

Question:

In your own words, why do you think Jesus wants us to learn teachableness and humility?



II. Meekness: Standard dictionaries inaccurately define it:

A Docile

B Overly submissive or compliant

C Spiritless

D Tame

E Can't you just hear Jesus say, "For I am docile, spiritless, and tame"?

F Biblical meekness is:

1. Gentle
2. Submissive
3. Teachable
 - a. Jesus said, "I am teachable" at heart, at the core of my being. Not a pretend or surface teachableness.
 - b. If Jesus needed to be teachable, how much more each of us!
 - c. Isaiah 50:4b, 5 is a Messianic text: 4b) He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear to hear as a disciple. 5) The Lord GOD has opened My ear; and I was not rebellious, nor did I turn away.
 - d. Isaiah writes in the first person but it is Jesus-who-is-to-come speaking of His gentleness, submissiveness, and teachableness:
 - "ear to hear as a disciple"
 - "I was not rebellious"
 - "I did not turn away"

G Teachableness is the willingness to be taught; the willingness to learn.

1. The willingness to allow others, in particular those to whom you are accountable, to speak into your life – even to speak correction.
2. We will never grow beyond our willingness to receive correction.
 - a. Correction – Greek: epanorthosis - restoration to an upright or right state. Epanorthosis is a compound word: epi – a superimposition or over & anorthoo – to straighten up or to make straight. So it is to be made straight, set upright, or corrected by one whom you have come under.
 - b. Illustration of correction with a bottle.
 - c. Proverbs 15:32 - He who disdains instruction despises his own soul, but he who heeds rebuke gets understanding.
3. The desired end of teachableness: I can say, "I have been taught" when I am skilled in what I was taught.
 - a. Giving one a lesson in tying his shoes or brushing her teeth does not mean one has been taught to tie shoes or brush teeth.
 - b. One can say they have been taught to tie shoes and brush teeth when he/she can demonstrate the skill of such.

H

The way of disciples - STORR:

1. Self-denial
 - a. Luke 9:23-25 – 23) Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and **take up** his cross daily, and follow Me. 24) "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. 25) "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost?
 - b. Luke 14:27 - And whoever does not **bear (carry)** his cross and **come after Me cannot** be My disciple.
 - c. To be His disciple we must deny ourselves, take up & carry our crosses and follow Jesus.
 - d. A false, religious teaching is that God puts crosses on us. But in Luke 9:23 we see Jesus' command is not, "Allow Me to put crosses on you." Rather it is we must be willing to **take up** our crosses and carry them.
 - e. Before Christ, we have no cross in His purpose unless we **voluntarily take it up!**
 - f. Before we take up our cross, we must deny ourselves. Why?
 - Self is our biggest enemy!
 - I want what I want when I want however I can get it.
 - Fundamental to following Jesus and building character is for me to deny myself of what I want.
 - g. When we have truly denied ourselves, we are teachable:
2. Teachableness
 - a. It is essential to be teachable and to be taught.
 - b. But to be taught and not obey is a waste.
 - c. When we are teachable, what follows is obedience:
3. Obedience
 - a. Greek: hupakoe - attentive hearkening, by implication, compliance or submission. Greek for obey: hupakouo - to hear under (as a subordinate), i.e. to listen attentively; by implication, to heed or conform to a command or authority: hearken, be obedient to, to obey.
 - b. Hebrews 2:10, 11 – 10) For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. 11) For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren,
 - c. Hebrews 5:7-9 – 7) who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, 8) though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. 9) And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation **to all who obey Him**
 - d. Philemon 1:21 - Having confidence in your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.
4. Recognition
 - a. As we are obedient, over time, we gain recognition.
 - b. This is not the kind of recognition that feeds the ego; that makes us think more highly of ourselves than we should or that moves others to give us undue acclaim.
 - c. Rather, it is a recognition that God gives as we, through obedience, do His will. We become God's go-to people in the earth!



- d. It is the kind of recognition that Abraham received from the Lord beginning in Genesis 12:1-4. God said to Abram, if you will do as I say I will:
 - Make you a great nation
 - Bless you
 - Make your name great
 - You shall be a blessing
- e. This is recognition as a fruit of obedience; it is God's favour upon us for God's purposes to be accomplished through us.
- f. Then we are ready for release.
- 5. Release
 - a. Release is the freedom of functionality. If I'm not released to function in God's purposes, using my gifts, then I will be unfulfilled and ineffective.
 - b. But when we are released to function depending on the Holy Spirit, we come into that place we have always desired – being an equipped, prepared instrument in His hands.
 - c. The Risk Factor
 - Leaders must risk with youth and inexperience.
 - They must not risk with unfaithfulness and unfruitfulness.

Question: As a church leader, can anyone speak into your life, even correct you or is that something only peers and those over you in the Lord can do? Give reasons and an explanation for your answer.

III. Humility

- A Isaiah 57:15 NLT - The high and lofty one who lives in eternity, the Holy One, says this: "I live in the high and holy place with those whose spirits are contrite and humble. I restore the crushed spirit of the humble and revive the courage of those with repentant hearts.
- B **The humility of Jesus:**
 - 1. Jesus more than humbled Himself when He came to earth – He emptied Himself. Philippians 2:6,7 - Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.
 - 2. In heaven before He came to earth, He was God the Word! He made the choice to empty himself of His divine powers and prerogatives in order to take on the limitations of humanity.
 - 3. I repeat, before Jesus humbled Himself, He emptied Himself.
 - 4. If we are full of ourselves, we will find it impossible to humble ourselves.
 - 5. Great Quotes About Humility
 - a. Robert C. Chapman – "Humility is the secret of fellowship; pride is the secret of division." Chapman is saying that pride fuels division; humility fuels unity.
 - b. Charles Spurgeon – "Humility is the proper estimate of oneself." This means who I am and what I have is not about me naturally; it is because of what He has done and worked in me.
 - c. Ed Cole – "Humility is the willingness to remain anonymous." This means if we are humble we are never concerned if we are given credit for what the Lord accomplishes through us.
 - d. C.S. Lewis – "Humility is not thinking more of myself or thinking less of myself. True humility is thinking of myself less."
 - e. Humility is being selflessly motivated.

- f. Humility acknowledges self-deficiencies and needs.
- g. Humility does not trust one's self or one's own powers.
- h. Humility lacks self-reliance and self-confidence.
- i. To be humble is to be unassuming, unpretentious, not self-important.
- j. 1 Peter 1:5-7 - 5) 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. 6) Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, 7) casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.
- k. James 4:6 - 6) But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."
 - If we want to find ourselves in the place where we are being resisted by God, it is in the position of pride.
 - Judges 2:15a - Wherever they (Israel) went out, the hand of the LORD was against them.
 - Numbers 22:2 - Then God's anger was aroused because he (Balaam) went, and the Angel of the LORD took His stand in the way as an adversary against him.
- l. There are times we are rebuking the devil for trouble in our lives, but the source of the trouble in those times is not Satan but God!
 - Satan is our adversary, God is not.
 - But just as parents have an adversarial role in the lives of their children when they step outside the boundaries set for them so must God play an adversarial role with us!
 - God resists us and our stubborn ways by His hand against us.
- m. Pride causes God to resist us.
- n. Humility brings to us grace from God.
- o. Grace - Strength and ability from God for me to do His will - what I do not have the natural strength and ability to do.
- p. Grace is ability from God for me to do what I can't normally do!
 - God gives grace to the humble.
 - Humility is a grace magnet.
- q. Matthew 23:12 - And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.
 - In the kingdom of God the way up is down.
 - God determines how high you go based on how low you have demonstrated you are willing to go.
 - It is our job to humble ourselves and God's job to exalt us.
 - If we do His job, He will have to do our job.
- r. With teachableness & humility comes accountability.
- s. But if accountability is going to work in my life, it is because I want to be accountable and I must want someone to hold me accountable.
- t. God requires we be accountable to others as well as to Him.
- u. In the culture of the kingdom, there is no room for lone rangers!
- v. Delegated authority, the authority by which God operates.

6. Matthew 10:40 - (Jesus is speaking) "He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me."

7. Luke 10:16 - "He who hears you hears Me, he who rejects you rejects Me, and he who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me."



- 8. **If we ignore or resent one sent by those over us, we ignore or resent those over us.**
 - w. Seditious:
 - Inciting discontent or rebellion against authority; incitement to disorder; insurrection, mutiny.
 - One on the team, acting as a team player but with unresolved issues in his/her heart.
 - These issues have festered: unforgiveness has led to bitterness; bitterness has led to sedition. It is the Absalom spirit.
 - Each of us is under authority to God, parents, government, employer.
 - x. What we sow under is what we will reap if we are ever over.
 - y. If we function properly under authority it is because we choose to do so.
- 9. **Invited Authority**
 - a. Practically, whatever authority is in my life, I must want it and welcome its influence.
 - b. This is true even of the authority God has in my life.
 - c. Although God has all authority - His authority in my life does not function practically in my life until I invite it.
 - d. I must willingly come **under** authority if I am ever going to be able to effectively function **in** authority.

Question: Give your plan for a very proud person to become humble.

