

LEADERSHIP FOR THE CHURCH

Leadership Lesson

Main Scripture: 2 Timothy 2:15

"Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

INTRODUCTION

Leadership is one of the greatest responsibilities God can give to a person. In the church, leadership is not simply about standing behind a pulpit, carrying a title, or commanding people. Church leadership is the sacred responsibility of representing Christ before people and representing people before God.

A church leader becomes:

- A guide to the lost.
- A shepherd to believers.
- A counsellor to the hurting.
- A teacher of truth.
- A protector of God's flock.
- A builder of future leaders.

Leadership can either build or destroy people. Strong godly leadership brings revival, growth, order, unity, and spiritual maturity. Weak leadership brings confusion, division, stagnation, and spiritual decline.

God always works through leaders:

- Noah led his family to safety.
- Moses led Israel out of bondage.
- Joshua led Israel into the Promised Land.
- Nehemiah led restoration.

- Paul led the early church.
- Jesus led humanity to salvation.

Everything rises and falls on leadership.

1. LEADERSHIP IS INFLUENCE

Leadership is the ability to influence people toward a godly direction.

A leader affects:

- Thinking
- Decisions
- Attitudes
- Spiritual growth
- Vision
- Destiny

Whether good or bad, every leader leaves an impact.

Example:

When Moses lifted his hands, Israel prevailed in battle.

When David sinned, the whole nation suffered.

Leadership influence is powerful.

Important Truth:

People may hear your preaching, but they follow your lifestyle.

That is why church leadership must be built on:

- Integrity
- Truth
- Holiness
- Love
- Humility

2. LEADERSHIP BEGINS WITH SELF-LEADERSHIP

Before leading others, you must first lead yourself.

A person who cannot control:

- Temper,
- Emotions,
- Habits,
- Words,
- Desires,
- And time,

will struggle to lead others effectively because leadership begins from within. Before God entrusts you with people, He first tests your ability to manage yourself.

1. CONTROL OF TEMPER

A leader who cannot control anger can destroy relationships, discourage people, and make wrong decisions.

Proverbs 15:1

"A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."

In ministry, people will offend you, criticize you, misunderstand you, and sometimes oppose you. If every offense produces anger, conflict will increase.

A mature leader:

- Remains calm under pressure.
- Responds wisely instead of reacting emotionally.
- Corrects people with love.
- Avoids unnecessary arguments.

Moses was a great leader, but one moment of uncontrolled anger caused him to strike the rock against God's instruction. Anger can damage destiny.

Leadership requires emotional stability.

2. CONTROL OF EMOTIONS

Leaders face:

- Rejection,
- Criticism,
- Pressure,
- Disappointment,
- Betrayal,
- And stress.

If emotions control a leader, decisions become unstable.

A leader cannot lead based only on feelings. Some days you may feel discouraged, tired, or unappreciated, but leadership requires consistency.

Jesus experienced sorrow, rejection, and pain, yet He remained focused on His mission.

Emotionally mature leaders:

- Do not quit easily.
 - Do not make decisions in anger.
 - Do not allow moods to control ministry.
 - Trust God even during difficult seasons.
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3. CONTROL OF HABITS

Habits shape destiny.

What you repeatedly do eventually becomes your lifestyle.

Good habits build strong leaders:

- Prayer,
- Bible study,
- Discipline,
- Reading,
- Timekeeping,
- Excellence.

Bad habits destroy leadership:

- Laziness,
- Gossip,
- Carelessness,
- Addiction,
- Procrastination,
- Dishonesty.

Leadership is not built in one day. It is built daily through consistent habits.

Galatians 6:9

"Do not grow weary in doing good."

Small daily disciplines create great spiritual leaders.

4. CONTROL OF WORDS

A leader's words carry power.

Proverbs 18:21

"Death and life are in the power of the tongue."

Words can:

- Heal,
- Encourage,
- Inspire,
- Correct,
- Or destroy.

Careless words can wound people deeply.

A wise leader:

- Speaks carefully.
- Avoids gossip.
- Avoids insulting people publicly.
- Encourages instead of discouraging.
- Speaks truth with grace.

Jesus used words to:

- Heal the broken,
- Calm storms,
- Restore sinners,
- Raise faith in people.

A leader must learn when to speak and when to remain silent.

5. CONTROL OF DESIRES

Not every desire should be followed.

Some desires lead to destruction:

- Lust,
- Greed,
- Pride,
- Desire for power,
- Desire for recognition,
- Love of money.

Many great leaders fell because they failed to control personal desires.

Samson lost strength because of uncontrolled desire.

Judas betrayed Jesus because of greed.

A godly leader must crucify fleshly desires and submit to the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:16

"Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh."

Leadership requires purity and self-denial.

6. CONTROL OF TIME

Time is one of the greatest gifts God gives a leader.

A leader who wastes time will eventually lose effectiveness.

Effective leaders value time:

- They prepare.
- They plan.
- They prioritize.
- They avoid unnecessary distractions.

Jesus lived with purpose. Every moment of His ministry carried direction.

Poor time management produces:

- Disorder,
- Missed opportunities,
- Stress,
- Unfinished assignments.

Ephesians 5:15-16

"Be very careful, then, how you live... making the most of every opportunity."

A disciplined leader respects both God's time and people's time.

CONCLUSION

Self-control is the foundation of leadership.

If a leader cannot lead themselves:

- Their emotions will lead them,
- Their desires will control them,
- Their habits will weaken them,
- Their words will destroy trust,
- Their anger will damage relationships,
- And their time will be wasted.

But a leader filled with discipline and the Holy Spirit becomes stable, trustworthy, effective, and influential.

Before God uses you publicly, He develops you privately.

True leadership begins with mastering yourself under the authority of God.

Proverbs 25:28

"Like a city whose walls are broken through is a person who lacks self-control."

A church leader must develop discipline in:

- Prayer
- Bible study
- Time management
- Speech
- Purity

- Financial stewardship

A disciplined leader:

- Arrives on time.
- Keeps promises.
- Lives responsibly.
- Controls emotions.
- Maintains consistency.

Private discipline produces public influence.

3. THE FOUNDATION OF CHURCH LEADERSHIP IS CHARACTER

Giftedness may attract people, but character keeps them.

Many leaders fail not because they lacked talent, but because they lacked character.

Character is:

- Who you are when nobody is watching.
- Your inner spiritual condition.
- Your consistency in private and public life.

Important Character Traits

a) Humility

Pride is dangerous in ministry.

James 4:6

"God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble."

A humble leader:

- Accepts correction.
- Listens to others.
- Gives God the glory.
- Does not compete with others.

Jesus, though He was Lord, washed the disciples' feet.

b) Integrity

Integrity means honesty and consistency.

A leader must:

- Speak truthfully.
- Handle church finances honestly.
- Avoid hypocrisy.
- Live what they preach.

Without integrity, trust dies.

c) Purity

Spiritual leadership requires moral purity.

The enemy attacks leaders heavily through:

- Sexual sin
- Secret addictions
- Wrong relationships
- Corruption

A leader must guard:

- Eyes
- Thoughts
- Conversations
- Relationships

4. A LEADER MUST HAVE SPIRITUAL DEPTH

You cannot take people deeper than where you are spiritually.

A church leader must:

- Pray consistently.
- Fast occasionally.
- Seek God's presence.
- Live by the Holy Spirit.
- Grow spiritually daily.

Acts 6:4

"But we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

Ministry without prayer becomes empty activity.

Prayer:

- Gives direction.
- Produces spiritual authority.
- Builds discernment.
- Strengthens the leader.

5. LEADERSHIP REQUIRES VISION

A leader must know where God is leading the church. Without vision, leadership becomes movement without direction. Vision is the ability to see what God wants to accomplish before it physically happens. A visionary leader sees beyond the present condition and believes God for a greater future.

Vision answers important questions:

- What are we building?
- Why does this ministry exist?
- Where are we going?
- What does God want us to accomplish?
- What impact should this church make in the community?

Proverbs 29:18

"Where there is no vision, the people perish."

When there is no vision:

- Ministries become stagnant.
- People lose motivation.
- Workers become discouraged.
- Confusion increases.
- Energy is wasted on unnecessary activities.

A church without vision may remain active but ineffective. Activity is not always progress.

A leader with vision:

- Inspires people to believe.
- Creates direction and focus.
- Motivates growth and commitment.
- Brings unity around a common purpose.
- Helps people endure difficult seasons.

Vision gives people hope for tomorrow.

Nehemiah — A Visionary Leader

Nehemiah saw the broken walls of Jerusalem and refused to ignore the problem. While others saw ruins, Nehemiah saw restoration.

Because of vision:

- People united together.
- Workers became motivated.

- The work progressed quickly.
- Opposition was overcome.
- Jerusalem was rebuilt.

Great leaders see possibilities where others see problems.

Vision also gives strength during difficult times. When challenges come, vision reminds leaders why they started.

A visionary leader does not merely maintain the church — they move the church forward.

6. LEADERSHIP REQUIRES WISDOM

Leadership is not only spiritual; it is practical. Church leaders deal with different kinds of people and situations every day. Therefore wisdom is essential.

Not every problem needs anger.

Not every disagreement needs confrontation.

Not every criticism deserves a reaction.

Church leadership involves:

- Different personalities,
- Emotional people,
- Spiritual battles,
- Conflict situations,
- Counselling needs,
- Difficult decisions.

James 1:5

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God."

Wisdom is the ability to apply knowledge correctly.

A wise leader knows:

- When to speak,
- When to remain silent,
- How to correct people lovingly,
- How to handle conflict peacefully,
- How to make balanced decisions,
- How to avoid unnecessary division.

Wisdom protects ministry from destruction.

Solomon Example

Solomon became famous not because of military strength, but because of wisdom. People travelled from distant nations to hear his wisdom.

A wise leader:

- Listens before judging.
- Avoids acting emotionally.
- Seeks counsel when necessary.
- Handles people with patience.

Foolish leadership creates confusion. Wise leadership creates stability.

7. A LEADER MUST LOVE PEOPLE

Church leadership is people ministry.

People do not care how much you know until they know how much you care.

A church leader must genuinely love people because ministry is not about programs alone — it is about souls.

Jesus demonstrated love everywhere He went:

- He touched lepers.

- He fed the hungry.
- He comforted the broken.
- He forgave sinners.
- He welcomed rejected people.

Love made Jesus approachable.

A true leader:

- Listens to people carefully.
- Encourages the weak.
- Visits the sick.
- Supports the hurting.
- Shows compassion.
- Helps restore fallen people.

Love builds:

- Trust,
- Loyalty,
- Unity,
- And healthy relationships.

People may forget sermons, but they rarely forget genuine love and kindness.

A leader without love becomes harsh, proud, and disconnected from people.

1 Corinthians 13:2

"If I have not love, I am nothing."

Love is the heart of ministry.

8. LEADERSHIP IS SERVICE

Church leadership is not dictatorship or control. Leadership in God's kingdom is service.

Matthew 23:11

"The greatest among you shall be your servant."

Jesus completely changed the meaning of leadership. In the world, leaders seek power and recognition. In God's kingdom, leaders serve others.

A servant leader:

- Serves without pride.
- Helps others grow.
- Sacrifices comfort for ministry.
- Leads by example.
- Places people before personal gain.

Some leader's desire:

- Recognition,
- Power,
- Praise,
- Control,
- Titles.

But Jesus taught humility and service.

Even though He was Lord, Jesus washed His disciples' feet. This showed that no act of service is beneath a true leader.

Real leadership asks:

“How can I help God's people?”

Servant leadership builds healthy churches because people feel valued and cared for.

9. LEADERSHIP REQUIRES COURAGE

Leadership is not always easy. Sometimes leaders must stand for truth even when people disagree.

Joshua 1:9

"Be strong and courageous."

Leadership requires courage to:

- Correct sin,
- Defend truth,
- Face criticism,
- Continue during opposition,
- Make difficult decisions,
- Preach unpopular truth.

Weak leaders fear people.

Strong leaders fear God.

Many leaders compromise because they desire acceptance more than obedience to God.

Courageous leaders:

- Stand for righteousness.
- Refuse corruption.
- Remain faithful under pressure.
- Continue even when misunderstood.

Daniel Example

Daniel remained faithful to God even when prayer became illegal.

Courage made him stand firm despite danger.

Leadership courage comes from trusting God more than human opinion.

10. A LEADER MUST DEVELOP OTHER LEADERS

Great leaders reproduce themselves.

Leadership is not successful if it ends with one person. Strong leaders train others to continue the work.

Examples in Scripture:

- Moses trained Joshua.
- Elijah trained Elisha.
- Paul trained Timothy.
- Jesus trained disciples.

A church leader should:

- Mentor others,
- Delegate responsibilities,
- Teach upcoming leaders,
- Give opportunities for growth,
- Encourage spiritual gifts.

Some leaders fear raising others because they fear competition. But secure leaders empower others.

Leadership that refuses to develop others eventually becomes weak and ineffective.

A wise leader prepares the next generation.

COMMON MISTAKES OF CHURCH LEADERS

1. Pride

Pride destroys anointing, relationships, and teach ability.

2. Burnout

Trying to do everything alone leads to exhaustion and discouragement.

3. Lack of Accountability

Leaders also need correction, counsel, and spiritual covering.

4. Neglecting Family

Ministry should never destroy family relationships.

5. Seeking Popularity

Truth is more important than applause.

MARKS OF A SUCCESSFUL CHURCH LEADER

Success is not measured only by:

- Church size,
- Money,
- Buildings,
- Fame.

True success is measured by:

- Faithfulness,
- Spiritual fruit,
- Changed lives,
- Integrity,
- Obedience to God,
- Consistency in ministry.

God rewards faithfulness more than popularity.

JESUS — THE PERFECT MODEL OF LEADERSHIP

Jesus remains the greatest example of leadership.

He:

- Led with compassion,
- Served with humility,
- Taught with wisdom,
- Prayed consistently,
- Sacrificed Himself for others,
- Forgave even His enemies.

Even on the cross, Jesus demonstrated leadership through love, forgiveness, and obedience to the Father.

Every church leader must follow Christ's example.

CONCLUSION

Leadership in the church is a divine calling and sacred responsibility.

God is looking for leaders who are:

- Faithful,
- Prayerful,
- Humble,
- Wise,
- Loving,
- Spirit-filled.

Leadership is not about position; it is about responsibility, influence, sacrifice, and service.

A true church leader does not point people to themselves — they point people to Jesus Christ.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why is character more important than gifting?
 2. How does prayer strengthen leadership?
 3. What are the dangers of pride in ministry?
 4. Why must leaders develop other leaders?
 5. How did Jesus demonstrate servant leadership?
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FINAL CHALLENGE

God is still looking for faithful leaders today.
Will you become a leader who:

- Builds people,
- Protects truth,
- Serves humbly,
- And honours God?

The church needs leaders who will stand firm in righteousness and lead this generation to Christ.

FAITH DECLARATION

In the name of Jesus Christ:

I declare that I am called by God for His purpose.
I am anointed to lead with wisdom, humility, and power.
I shall not lead by pride, but by the Spirit of God.

I declare that:

- I will be faithful in God's work.
- I will walk in integrity and holiness.
- I will be a servant leader like Jesus Christ.
- I will not compromise truth.
- I will stand strong in difficult times.

The Lord shall give me wisdom beyond my understanding.

I shall lead with vision and clarity.

God shall use me to heal, restore, encourage, and build His people.

I declare that:

- My life shall be an example to believers.
- My words shall bring life and hope.
- My leadership shall produce growth and revival.
- I shall not fall into temptation.
- I shall finish my assignment faithfully.

Every attack against my ministry is defeated in Jesus' Name.

Every spirit of discouragement, fear, confusion, pride, and division is broken.

I receive:

- Fresh anointing,
- Spiritual strength,
- Divine wisdom,
- Discernment,
- Courage,
- And favour before God and people.

The Holy Spirit shall guide me daily.

I shall not lead in my own strength but in the power of God.

My church shall grow spiritually.

Souls shall be saved.

Lives shall be transformed.

Revival shall break out in our ministry.

I declare that I am a leader raised by God for this generation.

In Jesus' Mighty Name,
Amen.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father,
In the mighty name of Jesus Christ, we come before Your holy presence today with humble hearts. We thank You for the calling of leadership. We thank You because You are the One who raises leaders and establishes ministries.

Lord, we surrender ourselves completely to You. Empty us of pride, selfish ambition, jealousy, and every fleshly desire. Fill us with the character of Christ. Let humility, holiness, wisdom, love, and compassion overflow in our lives.

Father, we pray for spiritual strength. In these difficult days, help us to stand firm in truth and righteousness. Let us not become weak in prayer. Stir fresh fire in our hearts. Revive our hunger for Your presence and Your Word.

Lord, give us wisdom to lead Your people correctly. Help us to make godly decisions. Give us discernment to recognize danger, deception, and spiritual attacks before they destroy Your people.

We rebuke every plan of the enemy against church leaders. Every spirit of discouragement, division, confusion, immorality, fear, pride, and destruction — we command it to leave in the name of Jesus.

Father, protect Your servants:

- Protect their minds,
- Protect their families,
- Protect their ministries,
- Protect their spiritual lives.

May no weapon formed against them prosper.

Lord, raise leaders who are faithful and uncompromising. Raise shepherds after Your own heart. Raise men and women full of the Holy Spirit and power.

We pray for fresh anointing upon pastors, evangelists, teachers, prophets, worship leaders, youth leaders, and every servant in the house of God.

Father, let revival come to the church again. Let dead spiritual lives come alive. Let the lost return to You. Let miracles, healing, salvation, and restoration fill Your house once again.

Lord Jesus, teach us to lead like You:

- With humility,
- With love,
- With patience,
- With sacrifice,
- And with truth.

Help us never to seek personal glory, but to glorify Your holy name in everything we do.

At the end of our journey, may we hear You say:

"Well done, good and faithful servant."

We declare victory over the church.

We declare growth over the church.

We declare unity over the church.

We declare revival over the church.

In the mighty and powerful name of Jesus Christ we pray and believe,

AMEN.

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