

Leading with Character and Integrity

1. **Christ on the throne? Make character and integrity the key issues.**
2. **1 Tim.3:1** - Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task.
3. **Evaluate your motives!**
 - a. **Col.3:23** - "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men."
 - i. Context of the Body (**Rom.12**, **1 Cor.12**) under spiritual authority (**Heb.13**).
 - b. **Ps. 76:11** - Make vows to the LORD your God, and pay them; Let all who are around Him bring presents to Him who ought to be feared.
4. **You must count the cost:**
 - a. Evaluate expectations.
 - b. **Lk.9:62** - "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."
 - c. **Lk.18:29-30** - "I tell you the truth," Jesus said to them, "no one who has left home or wife or brothers or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God will fail to receive many times as much in this age and, in the age to come, eternal life."
5. **You must pass the test!**
 - a. **1 Tim.3:6** - He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil.
 - b. **1 Tim. 3:10** - They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons.
 - c. **The leadership test: Add some stuff from Titus.**
 - I have correct motives (1 Peter 5:1-4, 1 Thes. 2:2-12).
 - I am sincere (1 Tim.3:1-13).
 - I humbly work for the Lord and His approval only (Col.3:23, 1 Thes. 2:2-12).
 - I lead by example, watching my conduct closely (1 Tim.4:12-16, 1 Peter 5:1-4).
 - I am faithful (1 Cor.4:2).
 - I am encouraging (1 Thes. 2:2-12).
 - I am comforting (1 Thes. 2:2-12).

- I challenge those I lead to live lives worthy of God (1 Thes. 2:2-12).
- I serve and put others first (Mt.20:25-28, 1 Peter 5:1-4)
- I live above reproach (1 Tim.3:1-13).
- I walk in integrity, purity, holiness, righteousness and blamelessness (1 Tim. 4:12-16, 1 Thes. 2:2-12)
- I am temperate and balanced (1 Tim.3:1-13).
- I am self controlled (1 Tim.3:1-13).
- I am respectable and respected (1 Tim.3:1-13).
- I am hospitable (1 Tim.3:1-13).
- I am able to teach and train (1 Tim.3:1-13, 4:12-16, 2 Tim.3:16-17).
- I am able to rebuke and correct (2 Tim.3:16-17).
- I am gentle (1 Tim.3:1-13, 1 Thes. 2:2-12).
- I manage my private life well (1 Tim.3:1-13).
- I am doctrinally sound & correctly handle God's Word (1 Tim.3:1-13, 4:12-16, 2 Tim.2:15).
- I have a clear conscience (1 Tim.3:1-13).
- I guard my tongue (1 Tim.4:12-16).
- I am gentle (1 Tim.3:1-13).
- I love unconditionally (1 Tim.4:12-16, 1 Thes. 2:2-12).
- I invest everything I have & my very life in those I lead (1 Thes. 2:2-12).
- I walk by faith (1 Tim.4:12-16).
- I preach the Good News & share my faith (1 Tim.4:12-16).
- I disciple younger believers (2 Tim. 2:2, Col.1:28-29).
- I am diligent & wholly devoted to my call (1 Tim.4:12-16, 2 Tim. 2:3-6).
- I persevere (1 Tim.4:12-16).
- I endure hardship (2 Tim. 2:3).
- I obey the Lord (2 Tim. 2:4).
- I don't get drunk (1 Tim.3:1-13).
- I am not violent (1 Tim.3:1-13).
- I am not greedy & don't love money (1 Tim.3:1-13, 1 Peter 5:1-4, 1 Thes. 2:2-12).
- I am not sexually immoral (1 Tim.3:1-13).
- I am not ashamed (2 Tim.2:15).
- I am not manipulative (Mt.20:25-28, 1 Peter 5:1-4).
- I am not a burden to those I lead (1 Thes. 2:2-12).
- I work knowing I'll give an account to God for how I lead (Heb.13:17).

d. **1 Cor.4:2** - Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.

i. **IE.** They must **FIRST** pass the test!

1. **Jn.21:15-18 should encourage you!!!**

e. **Lk.16:10** - "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much."

i. **Faithful with little for the sake of the little.**

ii. You don't have to open own doors.

1. **1 Sam.16:13** - God chooses David to be king over Israel and Samuel anoints him.

2. **1 Sam. 16:21** - God places David in the king's city, palace & service which eventually leads to becoming king.

a. Note: God used David's harp playing to bring him to that place.

6. **The personal life / ministry life seesaw.**

a. **Russ:** Everything in your personal life must revolve around Jesus, everything in your ministry life must revolve around the Great Commission.

7. **A personal life that revolves around Jesus!**

a. Develop a godly character and life of integrity 1st!

b. **Php.1:27** - ...Conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.

c. **Eph.4:1** - ...Live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

d. **Col.1:10** - Live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God...

e. **1 Thes.2:12** - ...live lives worthy of God...

f. Remember: Grace + Truth over Time.

g. *Remember the Spirit filled life.*

i. **2 Cor. 3:18** - And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

ii. **Don't neglect your vertical and horizontal relationships.**

h. ***Character is a process.***

i. **Thoughts - Choices - Actions - Habits - Character.**

1. Every thought, choice and action matter.

2. Spiritual discipline is key!

a. Diligence is necessary.

i. Diligence: constant and earnest effort to accomplish what is undertaken; persistent exertion of body or mind.

ii. **Pr. 12:24** - Diligent hands will rule, but laziness ends in slave labor.

iii. **Pr. 21:5** - The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty.

iv. Be driven and unstoppable yet balanced.

3. Personal responsibility is required.

ii. Character growth takes long term commitment!

1. Longevity

2. Survive first, then be effective.

3. Be who you need to be, so you can do what you're called to do.

iii. Character growth takes time.

1. Take every opportunity to grow.

a. You can't give what you don't have.

i. You can't help them have victory where you haven't.

1. Never stop beating sin!

ii. You can't help them grow where you haven't.

1. Never stop growing.

iii. You can't teach them what you haven't learned.

1. Never stop learning.

iv. You can lead them in areas you aren't willing to go.

1. Never stop taking new risks.

b. **Lk.6:40** - A student is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher.

iv. **The ultimate character goal: Christlikeness.**

1. Lead by example.

a. Remember Paul's example:

i. **1 Cor. 11:1** - Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

ii. More on that:

1. **1 Cor. 4:16** - Therefore I urge you to imitate me.

2. **Gal. 4:12** - I plead with you, brothers, become like me...

3. **Php. 3:17** - Join with others in following my example...

4. **Php. 4:9** - Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me - put it into practice.

5. **1 Thes. 1:6** - You became imitators of us and of the Lord...

6. **2 Thes. 3:7** - For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example.

7. **2 Tim.3:10-11, 14** - You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, persecutions, sufferings... continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it.

b. Remember the kings of Israel.

v. Before we can lead, we must 1st develop a Christ like character worth following and then continue walking in integrity.

i. **Integrity is a non-negotiable.**

i. Sins of commission

1. Things we do that we should not.
- ii. Sins of omission
 1. Things we don't do that we should.
- iii. Accountability in leadership.
- iv. **James 5:16** - Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

8. A ministry that revolves around the Great Commission.

- a. **Mt.28:18-20** - "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."
- b. **Jn. 15:1-8, 16** - I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ²He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. ⁵"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. ⁸This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples ... ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit - fruit that will last.
- c. **Jn. 3:30** - He must increase, but I must decrease.
- d. **Rom.12:1** - Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - this is your spiritual act of worship.

9. End with Leadership challenge:

- a. I have nothing to offer. He does not need me.
- b. Leadership is a privilege.

- c. **Is. 6:8** - Isaiah's example.
- d. **Mk.1:7, Lk.3:16, Jn.1:27, Acts 13:25** - John the baptist's example.
- e. **Acts 5:41** - The disciples' examples.
- f. **2 Cor. 3:4-6** - "Such confidence as this is ours through Christ before God. Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant--not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life."
- g. **1 Tim.3:13** - Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.
- h. **1 Peter 5:4** - And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.
- i. "The Challenge"
 - i. Evaluate the test and decide if you're all in!