

# LEADERSHIP QUESTIONS

## Lesson 6

### I. INTRODUCTION.

#### A. Leadership Is Not an Easy Task.

Demanding times demand strong leaders. The church of tomorrow depends upon great leaders today. Leadership training right now is essential.

#### B. What Does It Mean To Be a Leader?

We don't want a leader to be confused about who or what he is. We don't want a leader to be appointed to a work and then say, "I have a job, but I don't know what to do with it."

#### C. A large portion of the material in this lesson was adapted from information found in *Christian Leadership Handbook* by J.J. Turner (Howard Publishing Co., 1991).

### II. WHO IS A LEADER? SOMEONE WITH...

#### A. The Right Awareness.

- 1) A leader is a human being, not a superhuman.
- 2) A leader is made, not born.

#### B. The Right Attitude.

- 1) A desire to lead.
- 2) A faithful Christian with a true love for Christ, the local church, and its work.
- 3) A willingness to sacrifice. Leadership is demanding work, it requires going "the second mile", it requires learning and developing new skills, and it requires being teachable.
- 4) A courage and conviction which has no fear.
- 5) A self-control which shows a good example.
- 6) An integrity which leads to credibility and believability.
- 7) A set of doctrinal values true to God's word.

#### C. The Right Responsibilities.

- 1) Doing work yourself, delegating duties, and asking others to help.
- 2) Cooperating with everyone, listening to others, and building strong personal relationships.
- 3) Making decisions, setting goals, and reaching those goals. Good leaders don't necessarily "micro-manage" the work of others, but neither are they unaware of what is going on. Good leaders don't just make assignments. They follow-up and make sure those assignments are actually being completed in a timely fashion.

4) Working alone at times.

D. The Right Place.

1) Out in front. Good leaders are not merely reactionary, waiting for their followers to act first. They act before others do.

2) On the move.

3) On the move in the right direction. They have the right biblical purpose, mission, and vision for the local church. All good leaders are first good followers of God's word (Ex. 13:21-22; Josh. 3:3; Jn. 21:15-19, 22; Phil. 3:13-14).

E. The Right Position.

1) A sitting position — learning from God (Lk. 10:39).

2) A kneeling position — praying to God (Dan. 6:10; Lk. 22:41; Acts 20:36).

3) A standing position — fighting for God (Eph. 6:13).

F. The Right Qualities.

There are many right qualities of a good leader. We will discuss "leadership qualities" in our next lesson.

### III. WHAT ARE THE FUNCTIONS OF LEADERSHIP?

A. Service.

Leaders function to provide service to others (Mt. 20:25-28).

B. Example.

Leaders function to provide the proper example for others (Heb. 13:7) — "follow me" (Mt. 8:22; 9:9; 16:24; 19:21; etc.), or be "imitators of me" (1 Cor. 4:16; 11:1; Phil. 3:17; 2 Thess. 3:7,9; etc.).

C. Nurture.

Leaders function to provide spiritual parenting — feeding, caring, sharing, ministering, encouraging, comforting, urging, and mentoring (1 Thess. 2:7,11), for those who are "babes in Christ" (1 Cor. 3:1; Eph. 4:14; 1 Pet. 2:2).

D. Equip.

Leaders function to provide training to equip God's people for the work of service (Eph. 4:11-16).

### IV. WHAT ARE THE AREAS OF LEADERSHIP?

A. There Is Much Work To Do.

What can I do? In a local church, there are many needs to be met, many places to serve, and many talents to be used (Rom. 12:3-8, 1 Cor. 12:4-31; Eph. 4:11-16; 1 Pet. 4:7-11). Every Christian has a service to perform. In a sense, we all have a "leadership" role to

fulfill. We all are "leaders". A basic definition of "leadership" is to "show the way" by serving or doing. We all influence (show the way to) someone!

**B. Areas of Leadership.**

1. Promotion — evangelizing the community (special efforts to share the gospel, advertising the special events, etc.).
2. Education — the teaching program within the local church (sermon planning, preacher selection, teacher selection, curriculum planning, teaching supplies, etc.).
3. Exhortation — encouraging members to remain faithful (visitation programs, home Bible studies, new convert classes, defending the truth against error, etc.).
4. Administration — planning and organizing the details of the local church work and worship (work schedules, worship planning, finances, building and grounds maintenance, benevolence care, etc.).

**V. HOW CAN LEADERS HOLD BACK THE LOCAL CHURCH?**

- A. Failure to Act or to Work — "I'm still thinking about leading others" (Jas. 2:26).
- B. Fear — "I just don't think I can be a leader" (2 Tim. 1:7).
- C. Negative Attitudes — "Leadership won't work and I don't get along with others very well" (Num. 13:30-33).
- D. Ignorance — "I don't know how to lead" (Hos. 4:6).
- E. Lack of Goals — "I don't have any plans to lead right now" (1 K. 18:21).
- F. Content with the Status Quo — "Things are fine the way they are without leaders" (2 Pet. 3:4).
- G. Failure to Communicate — "I don't plan to say anything about leading" (2 K. 7:9).
- H. Procrastination — "Let's wait until later to lead" (Ac. 24:25).
- I. No Spirit of a Servant — "I want to be over everyone else, not lead them" (Mt. 20:26-28).
- J. Little Commitment to God or Fellow-Man — "I'm too busy with my own life right now to be a leader" (Lk. 10:25-37).
- K. No Desire for Improvement — "I'm fine where I'm at without being a leader" (Lk. 13:6-7).

**VI. WHY ARE SOME LEADERS NOT FOLLOWED?**

**A. Two Leadership Tests.**

1. Does the leader actually get things done?
2. Do the people actually follow the leader in a willing way?

**B. Poor Leadership Styles.**

1. The do-nothing leader — followers desire to get something accomplished, but they don't get any help from the leader.

2. The research leader — followers get tired of hearing about the problem and the leader does nothing to solve it.
3. The popular-opinion leader — followers like him, but don't respect him.
4. The ostrich-buried-head leader — followers have to search to find their leader.
5. The autocratic leader — followers don't like a selfish, self-centered person.
6. The manipulator leader — followers don't like getting used and abused.
7. The fighting leader — followers don't trust him because he doesn't trust anyone.
8. The instinct leader — followers are unsure about following mere feelings and emotions all the time, they want sound reason and biblical principles as well.
9. The closed-minded leader — followers dislike being forced to do something (judgments, expedients) only one way and all the time.
10. The follower leader — followers want to be led straight ahead, not in circles.
11. The reactionary leader — followers want a leader to act and take the lead, not simply react to what others are already doing.

## **VII. CONCLUSION.**

- A. Before You Can Lead...
  1. You must know who and what you are as a leader.
  2. You must know what your job of leading is and when to do it.
  3. You must know who you are leading and how to best do it.
  4. You must know where you are leading others and why.
- B. Local Churches Need Leaders Who Lead People Closer to God, Not Leaders Who Hinder the Local Church, or Leaders Who Are Not Followed At All.

## Lesson Six Discussion

1. List some situations that we have today in our nation and in our local churches which demand strong leaders
2. Summarize what it means to be a leader.
3. All good leaders are first good followers. Examine these passages and write down the leader and who they followed: Ex. 13:21-22; Josh. 3:3; Jn. 21:15-19, 22; and Phil. 3:13-14.
4. What are the four functions of leadership in the local church? Give specific examples of each one.
5. Is there work in the local church for everyone to do, or is that work to be placed into the hands of the leaders only?
6. What are the four areas of leadership in the local church? Give specific examples of each one.
7. List some ways in which a leader can hold back the local church.
8. What are two good tests of leadership?
9. List some reasons why some leaders are not followed.
10. What must you know before you can be a good leader?