



LEADERSHIP

Acts 6:7 (NLT) “God’s message was preached in ever-widening circles. The number of believers greatly increased in Jerusalem, and many of the Jewish priests were converted, too.”

Acts 6:1-2 (NLT) “But as the believers rapidly multiplied, there were rumblings of discontent. Those who spoke Greek complained against those who spoke Hebrew, saying that their widows were being discriminated against in the daily distribution of food. [2] So the Twelve called a meeting of all the believers. ‘We apostles should spend our time preaching and teaching the word of God, not administering a food program,’ they said.”

I. The Role of Leadership in the Church.

Hebrews 13:17 (NIV) “Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.”

(1) Leaders are given authority to lead.

PPT Only. Quote. “He who thinketh he leadeth and hath no followers is only taking a walk.”

Hebrews 13:17a. (NIV) “Obey your leaders and submit to their authority.”

(2) Leaders are given authority to guard.

Hebrews 13:17b. (NIV) “...They keep watch over you as men who must give an account.”

2 Timothy 4:2-3 (NLT) “Preach the word of God. Be persistent, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching. [3] For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to right teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever they want to hear.”

PPT ONLY. Acts 26:14 (NIV) “We all fell to the ground, and I heard a voice saying to me in Aramaic, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’”

(3) Christian leaders lead joyfully.

Hebrews 13:17c. (NIV) “...Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.”

II. The Qualities of Christian Leaders.

Acts 6:3-15 (NLT) “Now look around among yourselves, brothers, and select seven men who are well respected and are full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom. We will put them in charge of this business. [4] Then we can spend our time in prayer and preaching and teaching the word.”

PPT ONLY. 1 Timothy 3:2-13 (NLT) “For an elder must be a man whose life cannot be spoken against. He must be faithful to his wife. He must exhibit self-control, live wisely, and have a good reputation. He must enjoy having guests in his home and must be able to teach. [3] He must not be a heavy drinker or be violent. He must be gentle, peace loving, and not one who loves money. [4] He must manage his own family well, with children who respect and obey him. [5] For if a man cannot manage his own household, how can he take care of God’s church? [6] An elder must not be a new Christian, because he might be proud of being chosen so soon, and the Devil will use that pride to make him fall. [7] Also, people outside the church must speak well of him so that he will not fall into the Devil’s trap and be disgraced. [8] In the same way, deacons must be people who are respected and have integrity. They must not be heavy drinkers and must not be greedy for money. [9] They must be committed to the revealed truths of the Christian faith and must live with a clear conscience. [10] Before they are appointed as deacons, they should be given other responsibilities in the church as a test of their character and ability. If they do well, then they may serve as deacons. [11] In the same way, their wives must be respected and must not speak evil of others. They must exercise self-control and be faithful in everything they do. [12] A deacon must be faithful to his wife, and he must manage his children and household well. [13] Those who do well as

deacons will be rewarded with respect from others and will have increased confidence in their faith in Christ Jesus.”
*also Titus 1:6-9

III. The Need for Christian Leaders.