Christ-like Qualities of Leadership

Calvary Baptist Seminary Chapel: Pastor Vincent Sawyer, Faith Baptist Church, Queens, NY
(Selected Scriptures)
10/14/99

Introduction:

Men, to be a REAL LEADER, we must have the qualities of Leadership found in Jesus Christ!

I. A real leader has COURAGEOUS CONVICTION (Matthew 7:29)
(Leadership unflinchingly stands for TRUTH)

II. A real leader has a SERVANT'S HEART (Matthew 20:25-28)
(Leadership BUILDS RATHER THAN BOSSES)

III. A real leader has a HUMBLE SPIRIT (John 13:1-17)
(Leadership is willing to perform the LOWLIEST OF TASKS)

IV. A real leader has an EXEMPLARY LIFE (John 13:15, 34)
(Leadership leads by EXAMPLE)

Christ-like Qualities of Leadership

Calvary Baptist Seminary Chapel: Pastor Vincent Sawyer, Faith Baptist Church, Queens, NY
(Selected Scriptures)
10/14/99

Introduction:

Men, to be a REAL LEADER, we must have the qualities of Leadership found in Jesus Christ!

I. A real leader has _____(Matthew 7:29)
(Leadership unflinchingly stands for TRUTH)

II. A real leader has a _____(Matthew 20:25-28)
(Leadership BUILDS RATHER THAN BOSSES)

III. A real leader has a _____(John 13:1-17)
(Leadership is willing to perform the LOWLIEST OF TASKS)

IV. A real leader has an _____(John 13:15, 34)
(Leadership leads by EXAMPLE)

Christ-like Qualities of Leadership

Calvary Baptist Seminary Chapel: Pastor Vincent Sawyer, Faith Baptist Church, Queens, NY
(Selected Scriptures)
10/14/99

Introduction:

Contrary to the world's opinion, Bible-believing Christians have always held to male leadership in the home and church.

The issue of Dad being the head of the home should go without saying, but can't anymore.

I Cor. 11:3 - But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.

God has ordained domestic roles and responsibilities, and a vital element of these roles involves husbands lovingly leading their wives and children.

Such leadership is not tyrannical or despotic, nor is it weak and wimpy. Christ by His example gives us the perfect model.

Perhaps the best definition of effective leadership I have ever read is this:

"Leadership is <u>influence</u>."

"The ability of one person to influence others; one man can lead others only to the extent that he can influence them." (J. Oswald Sanders)

"He who thinketh he leadeth, and no one is following, is just 'taking a walk'." (Chinese Proverb).

When it comes to Christ's leadership, we could speak about His:

--Teaching methods (His Communication)
--Sharing of responsibilities (His Delegation)
--Structured yet spontaneous way of doing things (His Organization)
--Management of people and situations (His Administration)
--Encouraging way of getting people to do things (His Motivation)

And truly, leadership involves all of these elements. However, we want to focus on the <u>character</u> and <u>style</u> of leadership as exemplified in our Savior. Not so much "<u>what</u>" He did, but "<u>how</u>" He did it.

The <u>How</u> of Leadership.

Men, to be a REAL LEADER, we must have the qualities of Leadership found in Jesus Christ!

I. A real leader has COURAGEOUS CONVICTION (Matthew 7:29)

(Leadership unflinchingly stands for TRUTH)

Mt. 7:29 - For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

When Jesus spoke, the people observed that He didn't speak as a Pharisee. He didn't quote some rabbi and support His points by the authority found in man.

But Christ (being God) spoke with independent authority. We do not have independent authority. However, if we believe that the Bible is God's Word, we can speak with God's authority.

"The World is Looking for Men"

Men who are not for sale;
Men who are honest, sound from center to circumference;
Men who are true to the heart's core;
Men whose consciences are steady as a needle to the pole;
Men who can tell the truth and look the world right in the eye;
Men who neither brag, nor run;
Men who neither flag nor flinch;
Men who can have courage without shouting it;
Men who know their message and tell it;
Men who know their place and fill it;
Men who know their business and attend to it;
Men who will not lie;
Men who will not shirk;
Men who will not dodge;
Men who are not too lazy to work;
Men who are not too proud to be poor;
Men who are willing to eat what they have earned;
Men who wear what they have paid for;
Men who are not ashamed to say NO with emphasis;
Men who will stand for right if heaven totters and the earth reels;
Men in whom the courage of everlasting life runs deep and strong.

God has foretold that in the last days many "shall depart from the faith," multitudes "will not endure sound doctrine."

There is a great mounting pressure on Christian leaders (whether ecclesiastically or domestically) to compromise on truth.

Do you cave in to societal pressure?

You are one who has caved in to societal pressure . . .

--if you see nothing wrong with pre-marital or extra-marital sex

--if you view homosexuality and lesbianism as legitimate alternative lifestyles

--if you no longer believe in spanking as a form of child training

--if you no longer hold to male leadership in the church and home

--if you believe that the Bible and Christianity is nothing to get too fanatical over

--if you think that animal rights are on the same level as human rights

--if you think that evolutionary processes are (in any way) the cause for the origination and formation of the universe

--if you think that the world is millions or billions of years old

--if you think that ecumenical cooperation is more important than doctrinal purity

Today, we need Dads who will not back down or compromise on truth. Father who will say with Joshua, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

II. A real leader has a SERVANT'S HEART (Matthew 20:25-28)
(Leadership BUILDS RATHER THAN BOSSES)

Who is truly great?

V. 25
The world achieves "greatness" by raw power, military might, fame and fortune, by controlling and forcing subordinates into submission and total allegiance.

The best form of government is one that serves the people rather than exploits the people (like radical egomaniac dictators and self-serving Communists).

"William Barclay has succinctly commented, 'The world may assess a man's greatness by the number of people whom he controls and who are at his beck and call; or by his intellectual standing and his academic eminence; or by the number of committees of which he is a member; or by the size of his bank balance and the material possessions which he has amassed; but in the assessment of Jesus Christ these things are irrelevant." (MacArthur, p. 246).

V. 26
"It shall not be so among you" - God has different standards for His people. Different ways of achieving desired goals.

Today, a dangerous trend exists in the world, and it has afflicted many who name the name of Christ. It is a proud, self-centered, self-love philosophy which has a "me first" drive and an "I" agenda. If society were to write a Bible, its Golden Rule might read: "Thou shalt shove thy neighbor and love thyself."

***Greatness is in serving, not in being served!**

Who is truly great?

> ***"Whosoever will" -*** Anyone who wants to be or desires to be "great" in God's eyes.
>
> ***"Minister" -*** (*diakonos)* to perform common tasks, mundane tasks (cp. the 7 deacons in Acts 6). It is believed that this noun comes from the verb *"diako"* which means to run (to run errands) -- to be someone's "gopher."
>
> "The world's way of greatness is like a pyramid. The prestige and power of the great person is built on the many subordinate persons beneath him. But in the kingdom, the pyramid is inverted. As the great commentator R.C. H. Lenski has observed, God's 'great men are not sitting on top of lesser men, but bearing lesser men on their backs'." (MacArthur, p. 240).
>
> Luke 14:11 - *"For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased, and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted."*
>
> There is no limit to what a person will do for others if he is not consumed about who gets the credit.

All service for Christ done with pure motives of love will merit rewards ("giving a cup of cold water" - Mt. 10:42).

The greatest rewards in Heaven are not reserved for those who necessarily had the limelight of Christianity. They served in the "shadows" of the Church. Many they were not so well known. Their names were not printed in the "Who's Who" of Christianity. Their tasks did not require great brains or awesome talent. But they were faithful, dependable, reliable. "The greatest ability is dependability." (Bob Jones Sr.)

V. 28

"Not to be ministered unto" - not to be served (*diakoneo*)

Jesus came not to be waited upon but to attend to the needs of others.

This entire verse has several indications of Christ's sacrificial servitude.

* ***"The Son of man"*** - Even this title shows Christ's humility in condescending to mankind by becoming a man. The "Son of God" became the "Son of man."
  II Cor. 8:9 - *"For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich."*

* ***"Came"*** - He who ruled Heaven *"came into the world to save sinners"* (II Tim. 1:15)
  He left paradise for a sin-cursed earth. Implicit in the word *"came"* is Christ's purpose. He came with a purpose of sacrificing Himself for others.

* ***"Give" -*** the response of love (Jn. 3:16; Rom. 5:8). His life was not taken, it was voluntarily given.

* ***"His life" -*** Christ's entire life was given for others, but the particular reference here is to His death.

  "Some years ago, Joe Delaney, a star football player for the Kansas City Chiefs, saw three young boys out in a lake, crying out for help and struggling to stay above the water. Although he was himself a poor swimmer, Joe dived into the water and tried to save them. One of the boys was rescued, but Joe and the other two boys drowned. He willingly laid down his life in an effort to save those boys, making the ultimate sacrifice in their behalf." (MacArthur, p. 245).

* ***"Ransom" -*** (*lutron*) the price paid to free (liberate) a slave or captive. *"You are bought with a price"* (I Cor. 6:20).
  His life and particularly His blood (I Pet. 1:19) was the price for your spiritual freedom, your release from sin and its penalty.

"<u>For</u> many" - (*anti)* in the place of - His sacrifice was substitutionary

"For <u>many</u>" - (*polus*) for a great host of people. The word "many" is not used in contrast to "all" (as the Limited Atonement view believes). Rather, the point is a contrast between His life (singular) and the multitudes (plural - *"many"*) for whom He died.

The women's libbers of today abhor the Bible's standards for domestic roles.

Submission on the part of the wife is often so despised because it is often so misunderstood.

Submission involves a wife's desire to allow her husband to <u>serve her</u>.

When a husband properly leads his wife, he serves her by providing for her, protecting her, directing the home, managing the home, etc.

All true leadership is service-oriented.

"Characteristics of Leadership"

A boss creates fear;
A leader creates confidence.
A boss fixes blame;
A leader corrects mistakes.
A boss knows it all;
A leader asks questions.
A boss makes work a drudgery;
A leader makes work interesting.
A boss is interested in himself;
A leader is interested in the group.
--Author unknown

III. A real leader has a HUMBLE SPIRIT (John 13:1-17)
(Leadership is willing to perform the LOWLIEST OF TASKS)

Christ-like leadership is. . .

1) Personal – washing the disciples' feet was one of many ways in which Jesus shows how He was people-oriented. He cared for people. He elevated relationships over rules, people over plans, and individuals over agendas.

2) Practical – Jesus, by washing their feet, met a need. Spiritual leadership must not be ritual oriented (those who have foot-washing as an ordinance have missed the point).

3) Humble – The King of kings and Lord of lords was willing to perform such a lowly task.

--Leadership is not afraid of rolling up the sleeves and getting one's hands dirty.

--Leadership is not too high and mighty to get down in the trenches and do battle like a common soldier.

--Leadership is not too important to avoid doing what needs to be done when no one else can do it.

Dad, we can help around the home. We can relieve our wives of some of the mundane domestic chores once in a while.

IV. A real leader has an EXEMPLARY LIFE (John 13:15, 34)
(Leadership leads by EXAMPLE)

John 13:15, 34 - For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

"On Monday morning, January 18, 1982, Major Nonn Lowery led the Thunderbird precision flying team into a clear desert sky. The Air Force fighters broke from their usual diamond position to practice Line Abreast. Major Lowery, the "boss," was flying No. 1. At all times the other pilots fly in response to the Boss. Major Dave Robinson (pilot of No. 2) says of the Boss, 'He's my world – whether I'm right side up, upside down. It makes no difference where the ground is because my eyes are on the leader.'

"From the Line Abreast formation, the team began to execute the Line Abreast Loop. At the top, all four planes were upside down and began to dive. Lowery pulled back on his stick to complete the loop, but a tiny piece of metal had come loose and prevented him from pulling out. The other pilots kept their eyes focused on the Boss, as they had been trained. The four planes, in formation, slammed into the earth at 490 mph. The pilots of No.'s 2, 3, and 4 never had a clue what was happening because their focus was completely on their leader. Even though they were in one of the most technologically advanced machines in existence, they were following a man. This demonstrates the profound responsibility we have as leaders." ("Effective God-Honoring Leadership" by Pastor Bill Bethea, from "Preach the Word" newsletter).

I Timothy 4:12 - Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

Men, we need to be . . .
--a <u>mold</u> worth duplicating.
--a <u>pattern</u> worth copying
--a <u>model</u> worth imitating

"Of the believers" - God is not calling upon us to model the <u>world</u> (TV examples), but what a believer should be.
--He has unique standards for His children.
--He is <u>not</u> calling upon the lost to be an example (they cannot be).

<u>Example</u> . . .

1) Example plays an important part in the formation of character; and its influence is felt more than that of <u>precept</u>.
"Children possess an imitative disposition. They look up to their parents as the pattern or model of their character, and conclude what they do is right and worthy of their imitation." (Rev. S. Phillips, 1858, <u>The Christian Home</u>, cited in <u>Teaching and Learning America's Christian History, the Principle Approach</u>, by Rosalie J. Slater).

2) Example may be <u>good</u> or <u>bad</u> (it is never neutral).

3) Example is teaching by <u>action</u>

Thus, the child is a living commentary upon his/her home and his/her parents. The child is the moral reproduction of the parent (whatever you sow will be reaped).

4) Example instructs a child before he/she can learn to speak and understand words (Phillips)

(Children from birth are like "walking camcorders" recording everything they see visually and audibly in your life and home)

**** Dad, your family needs you to be an example worth following!***

a. Be an example worth copying in your <u>LANGUAGE</u>
(Can your family model how you **<u>TALK</u>**?)
"In word" - in speech; refers here to <u>what</u> you say and <u>how</u> you say it. The <u>content</u> of your words and the <u>manner</u> in which you say them.
Do your words hurt or help? Build up or tear down? Edify or mortify?

b. Be an example worth copying in your <u>LIFESTYLE</u>
(Can your family model how you **<u>ACT</u>**?)
Do they see . . .
--<u>laziness</u>
--<u>materialism</u>
--<u>gluttony</u>
--<u>self-centeredness</u>

"Your walk talks and your talk talks, but your walk talks louder than your talk talks."
What you do speaks so loudly that (if your kids see inconsistency in you), they will not hear what you say!
ILLUS: of a little boy trying to walk in Daddy's shoes.

c. Be an example worth copying in your <u>RELATIONSHIPS</u>
(Can your family model how you **<u>LOVE</u>**?)
What is your relationship to your family?
Love is measured by the time and attention you give to them; by the unselfish sacrifice you make for their physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being

d. Be an example worth copying in your <u>ATTITUDE</u>
(Can your family model your **<u>ZEAL FOR GOD</u>**?)
"In Spirit" - (T.R. & KJV) - to be an example "in Spirit") means to have a <u>zest</u> (zeal) for spiritual things; to have an enthusiastic <u>attitude</u> about God and the things of God.
This person is not dull, drab, or depressed, but is excited about Christ and the new and abundant life He gives.
Mom and Dad set the <u>mood</u> for the home. A child's display of emotions is often a reflection of the frustration he/she feels over the mood of his parents.

e. Be an example worth copying in your <u>CONVICTIONS</u>
(Can your family model what you **<u>BELIEVE</u>**?)

A conviction is a belief you would be willing to die for.
Do you have “Sunday morning only” convictions?
Sooner or later, fathers, your children will need to understand what motivates our speech, conduct, and love. What drives our outward actions? What fuels our behavior? It must be faith.
Does your faith drive you to action? Does it influence your behavior?

ILLUS: A child said, "Dad, what is God like?" The reply: "I don't know - go ask your mother."
No dad knows all the answers, but he should know the elementary doctrines of the Christian faith - for we are responsible to God to teach our children!

ILLUS: of a boy in the snow trying to step into his father's giant tracks, and saying, "Look, Mom, I’m walking in Daddy's footsteps!"

f. Be an example worth copying in your HOLINESS
(Can your family model your **MORALITY**?)
“Purity” - Holiness or sanctity. The word refers to purity of act and thought (Lock).
You can’t say “Son, keep yourself pure . . . remain a virgin, etc.” when you are slouched down on your couch watching porn and sleaze on your TV set!

What is there about you worth copying?

Conclusion:

To be a good leader, you must be a good follower.

As Joshua followed Moses (Josh. 1:1-3) and Elisha followed Elijah (II Kings 2:12-15), we must follow Jesus.

You will not be successful at leading until you are first successful at following.

Men, to be a REAL LEADER, we must have the qualities of Leadership found in Jesus Christ!

I. A real leader has COURAGEOUS CONVICTION

(Matthew 7:29)

(Leadership unflinchingly stands for TRUTH)

Matthew 7:29

For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

II. A real leader has a SERVANT'S HEART

(Matthew 20:25-28)

(Leadership BUILDS RATHER THAN BOSSES)

Matthew 20:25-28

But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. [26] But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; [27] And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: [28] Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

III. A real leader has a HUMBLE SPIRIT (John 13:1-17)

(Leadership is willing to perform the LOWLIEST OF TASKS)

John 13:13-17

Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. [14] If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. [15] For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. [16] Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. [17] If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

IV. A real leader has an EXEMPLARY LIFE (John 13:15, 34)

(Leadership leads by EXAMPLE)

John 13:15

For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

John 13:34

A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.