

## “Christian Leadership”

### SCRIPTURE

Isiah 64: 8 (NIV)

*Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.*

**Subject Question:** In the context of Christian Leadership, what three steps are needed to remain truly pliable in the Potter’s hand?

**Compliment answer:** Answer God’s call, Lead the Flock, and set the Example.

**Big Idea:** In the context of Christian Leadership, the three steps that are needed to remain truly pliable in the Potter’s hand are: Answering God’s call, Leading the Flock, and Setting the Example.

### Homiletical Idea:

### “Broken Leadership”

**Purpose:** I want the church’s new officers to see and understand their work for and with God, in light of God’s work in and through them.

**Introduction:** There is a certain excitement in the fact that folks have thought enough of each one of you to assume an office in the church. Trustees, Elders, and Deacons are indeed the backbone of all that we do here and all that God would have is to do here. I cannot tell you what a privilege it is for you to serve the Lord in the capacity of serving His body. I also cannot tell you how important is it that you realize that this calling is not just filling a slot, or stepping in and helping the church out. No, this is calling, this is an invitation, this is a privilege, this is a responsibility, and this is indeed an entrance onto a very holy battleground. It is God’s doings when lives can and will be influenced by you. Attitudes will be assumed and formed by you. People will come and feel the love of Christ in our church by you. But remember this is God’s doing. Also people, will get mad at you, misunderstand, and take things you say or do out of context, and leave the church, because of you. People will talk about you behind your back, blame you for what is wrong, and accuse you of being mean, unholy, not a Christian. This is not God’s doings. This is the enemy’s doings--and as leaders in the church we cannot afford to take too much credit when things go well, nor can we assume too much blame when things don’t.

Comment [DC1]:

But what about this calling to be a leader in the church of Jesus Christ? What then are my responsibilities that go beyond my particular ministry?

(You are a Christian leader... a leader of Christians)

- A. Answer God's Call. Ephesians 4:1-3. *As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. <sup>2</sup> Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. <sup>3</sup> Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.* This becomes easier when we accept the reality that indeed this is a calling by God, to us, for a reason, and for a season. Even if you consider that well, I'm on for another term, there should first be some real introspection about is this really what God would have me to do?
- B. Am I really spiritually ready? Emotionally ready? Have I really sought the Lord in my consideration of this calling? How do you do this?
  - 1. Pray for Guidance
  - 2. Discuss your calling with Friends, Family members and mentors in the church.
  - 3. Ponder your skills and talents; your gifting and personality.
  - 4. Ask for help to discern.
- C. Listen for definite no, but consider silence to be a license to accept.
- D. Remember that the hardest thing to live with is unrealized potential. If God is calling, answer?

(You are a Christian leader... a leader of Christians)

- A. Lead the Flock. 1 Peter 5:1-2. *To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: <sup>2</sup> Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve;*
- B. Prepare to lead by taking the right nourishment daily: feeding on the Word, Studying, being aware of the place of influence the Lord has allowed you to hold.
  - 1. Encourage people who look to you for help and guidance,
  - 2. Maintain morale.
  - 3. Mediate conflicts effectively.

4. Build your team
  5. Follow through at all times.
- C. Your choices and liberties are not what they used to be. Try not to be a stumbling block. Recognize the ever present reality that God is at work in people's lives that you may not know. Recognize as well that the Enemy will do almost anything to get YOU off tract, doubt, fear and so on.
- D. Be a Christian; note that I did not say, try to be a Christian...

(You are a Christin leader... a leader of Christians)

- A. Set the Example. 1 Timothy 4:12. *Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but **set an example** for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.*
- B. In our context, we now live in a society where we need to remember to not let others look down on us for being older.
- C. How do we do that?
1. Model your life after Jesus
  2. Serve the people you lead.
  3. Live simply, gently and gratefully.
  4. Remember that you are not perfect.
- D. Answer God's call, Lead the flock, Set the example. In a moment we will ordain or install; with great privilege I remind you even now, You are a Christin leader... a leader of Christians