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Leadership and the Nature of Man

November 2014

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We all know various leaders people naturally gravitate to. And these are always people who have a special quality which inspires others to follow. The only problem is, being a leader is not, by itself, good enough. In fact, this can actually be harmful if the leader is leading in a bad direction. Thus, it is important to not only look at the personal qualities of leadership, but also at the direction the leader is leading.

To really grasp how this works, we must understand two things – our human essence and human nature. The Bible teaches about these two. First it teaches that human beings are creatures who are made in the image of God. Second it tells us that we are fallen.



Made in the Image of God

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. Genesis 1:26 - 27

Being made in the image of God means we have the personhood qualities of God himself. That does not mean we are gods, but that we are special creatures who have qualities such as creativity, self-awareness, free will and the like. Because we are made in the image of God, the possibilities for expressing godly qualities is boundless.

Fallen

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Genesis 3:6

But in spite of the fact that we have wonderful potential because of how God created us, we also have a tendency toward doing evil. Because we are fallen, we have to watch our own motivations and take into account our own evil tendencies. Leadership means nothing if it does not lead rightly.

Exercising Leadership

Not everyone is in a "position" of leadership, but everyone leads someone. And the leadership we express has results not only in society but also in the individual lives of those we lead. Keeping in mind that we are made in the image of God helps us recognize and exercise our leadership potential. Keeping in mind our fallenness helps keep our motivations in check. Good leadership not only leads people, it leads them rightly.

* Capitol Commission Florida is a non-partisan, non-political pastoral ministry to the political leaders, their families, their staffs, their political networks and lobbyists. The Capitol Commission State Director for Florida is Dr. Freddy Davis. Please feel free to make contact anytime there is any way we can serve you.