



# CAPITOL COMMISSION™

## God's Leader Series: Inspiring Team Members

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*We have enjoyed rich discussions this past year, looking at leadership from a Biblical perspective. This week's focus is on "horizontal communications," bringing others along in support of a greater mission. There is no greater example than the teaching of Jesus on the Great Commission. Working through twelve ordinary men, He made a positive impact on the entire world: Touching the lives of billions of people, even today.*

### INTRODUCTION

Most of our readers are either working on an election campaign or fulfilling an agency mission, even transitioning to a recently updated mission for the people of Kansas. Working through others is the most effective way to multiply our effectiveness. The Apostle Paul provides a model for us. He recruited helpers everywhere he went, set up a complex communication network, and provided leadership for an international ministry that flourished even after his untimely death. What can we learn from his example?

### BE GENTLE, KIND AND ABLE TO TEACH

*2 Timothy 2:24 And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful.<sup>1</sup>*

Paul is describing maturity, not merely skill or technique. His use of the Greek word *didaktikos* is surrounded by terms that describe qualities of life.<sup>2</sup> Paul cautioned young Timothy to avoid arguments and be kind to all people, especially those who disagreed with him. He was to be patient, even when falsely accused and personally attacked. Timothy was counseled to be gentle when he found it necessary to correct those who opposed him. Gene Getz<sup>3</sup> describes this effective leader/teacher as one who is not in bondage to himself or concerned with his own perceived image. Our true identity is in Jesus Christ, enabling us to be in control of our thinking and emotions. Our communication is in a non-threatening, non-defensive manner. We avoid arguments by being sensitive to those who are confused or even obstinate. Mostly, we do not respond in kind when we are verbally abused.

### BE AN EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATOR

*Colossians 4:15 Greet the brothers and sisters in Laodicea. And greet Nympha and the church that meets in her house.<sup>4</sup>*

Paul made friends in his travels, treating each as family, and visiting them when in the area. He directed his traveling team members to visit the new brothers and sisters. Paul sent letters to embolden the vision and to keep the focus. These letters were circulated. Each of his followers received the same information. This served to inform and help keep them responsible. Paul was quick to compliment in public and occasionally to admonish in the same manner (Colossians 4:17). As an administrator, I found Paul's tactics useful in holding field office managers accountable. Today we can add phone, fax, email, Twitter, and Facebook to our list of communication tools. However, the **quality** of the interaction must be **added** by us. Those reading your message should see you as warm, tender, sincere, and compassionate.

### CONCLUSION

Leaders are expected to act with maturity in addressing others. The focus is not upon us but on them and on the mission. Reflect that Jesus possessed "all power in heaven and in earth" (Matthew 28:18). Yet he pleaded: "Accept my teachings and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in spirit, and you will find rest for your lives" (Matthew 11:29).

### A PRAYER

Father God, coach me to be an effective leader. Strengthen my ability to relate to the people that You have placed in my life. I seek to be mature in my relationships and effective in communications. Mostly, Lord, help me to grow closer to You as I serve during this brief season in eternity.

<sup>1</sup> The Holy Bible, Today's New International Version. (Biblica). 2005.

<sup>2</sup> Gene Getz, The Measure of a Man. (Regal Books). 2004. p90.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> The Holy Bible, New Century Version. (Thomas Nelson, Inc.). 2005.