



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Leadership Series: LOYALTY (2 Corinthians)

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Here is another brief Bible study in our series on leadership. We develop these for our weekly 30 minute meetings and trust that they produce fruitful discussion. The goal is enhanced leadership in Kansas government.

INTRODUCTION

We have been reviewing the leadership principles practiced by the Apostle Paul during the first century B.C. You may ask if this is relevant today! From a secular viewpoint, Paul started out with scant resources and built an organization of tens of thousands of people spread over two continents. From a spiritual viewpoint, Paul took Christ's message to the non-Jewish people, strengthening the Church to reach billions of people worldwide. No human leader can rival the impact of Paul's leadership.

A LEADER CULTIVATES LOYALTY

Proverbs 20:6 Many people claim to be loyal, but it is hard to find a trustworthy person.¹

Loyalty is one of the greatest virtues. However, "our society today is so rife with corrupt leaders and so hostile to the concept of authoritative truth that loyalty is often perceived as a weakness rather than a merit." "Rebellion and defiance have been canonized as virtues instead."² Loyalty is exalted in Holy Scripture. It is owed to the Lord and to His truth, as well as to those who stand for the truth.³ *The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him* (2 Chronicles 16:9). Loyalty is fragile. King David prayed: *"Give my son Solomon a loyal heart to keep Your commandments and Your testimonies and Your statutes"* (1 Chronicles 29:19). Disloyalty is perhaps the most repugnant of evils. Judas had been a friend and close companion of Jesus for years. Yet he committed a traitorous act (John 19:11). Loyalty is not blind devotion to a person but an allegiance to truth and duty. It involves love and friendship and is crucial in marriage. Loyalty is indispensable in leadership. **We cultivate loyalty by being loyal.** "Nothing is more destructive of leadership than the leader who compromises his own loyalty."⁴

A LEADER HAS EMPATHY FOR OTHERS

2 Corinthians 2:4 For I wrote you out of great distress and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to grieve you but to let you know the depth of my love for you.⁵

Paul was a compassionate leader. He had written a letter of reproof and correction to the leaders of the Corinthian church, and now he was building them up before addressing the several remaining challenges. Paul had started the church around 50 A.D. and was pastor for "a good while" (Acts 18:18). Corinth was a major trade center fraught with pagan worship and temple prostitution (an ideal location for a church). A failure of leadership occurred several years after Paul moved on. There was a spirit of division and conflict driven by envy, strife, and carnality (1 Corinthians 3:3). Some were raising questions about Paul's apostolic authority (9:1-8). They were taking advantage of a leadership vacuum in that church. Paul gave them reproof and correction (2 Timothy 3:16) in a context of empathy and edification.

CONCLUSIONS

Effective leaders give their people room to fail and then encouragement as they struggle to recover. Can you remember a time when you experienced this? A leader motivates people to follow. It all hinges on relationships. Can you see how this is similar to a shepherd and his flock (Isaiah 40:11) (Ezekiel 34:12) (John 10:11)? Leadership hinges on trust, cultivated by loyalty. How are you inspiring people to follow you (John 10:14) (1 Peter 5:2-4)? Does your leadership fit that modeled by Paul (Acts 20:28)?

¹ The Holy Bible, New Century Version. (Thomas Nelson). 2005.

² John MacArthur, Called to Lead. (Thomas Nelson Inc.) p69.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ The Holy Bible. New International Version. (Biblica). 1984

BIBLE STUDIES

LEADERS/ADMINISTRATORS' STUDY: WEDNESDAYS 7:30 AM, GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM: 264 WEST

STAFF, VISITORS & THOSE WHO MISSED THE MORNING MEETING: 12 NOON: 264 WEST