



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

A Leader Must Have Character!

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This study/devotional is prepared for government leaders in the executive, legislative and judicial branches of Kansas government. We trust that these summary notes are inspiring and encouraging.

INTRODUCTION

What is **your** image in the greater community? The word “character” is a noun. It refers to a distinctive feature or attribute.¹ The Greek root is often translated as “to inscribe”. Modern usage is closer to the adjective “characteristic”. The reference is usually on a person’s moral or ethical strength. A close synonym is “reputation”. Do you realize that each interaction with a person and with the public adds to the accumulation of qualities which distinguish you?

FORMULA FOR SELECTING LEADERS

Acts 6:3 Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business;²

Reputation was a top requirement in the selection of leaders for the first century church. A positive reputation is built through years of reliable service. Those who are empowered by God’s Spirit have the consistency to remain true. Your reputation can suffer greatly when you attempt to gain wisdom from your own mistakes! Those expensive lessons have cost leaders their credibility, reputation, even their very lives. The Apostles (Christ’s leadership team) were challenged with the demands of both service and leadership. Their time was being consumed by legitimate, urgent needs of the church. This caused them to neglect the more essential, higher priorities of prayer and teaching the Word of God.³ Is your time being consumed by urgent needs rather than higher priority activities?

CONCLUSION

The Apostles delegated responsibilities to the seven newly-appointed leaders. This apparently invigorated all, and the newly found efficiency unleashed the Word of God. The early church grew exponentially, and many of their most bitter opponents joined them (Acts 6:6-7). Is the impact of your work multiplying in a dramatic manner? Character is more of a measure of what you **are** rather than what you **do**. You need God’s Spirit to navigate the destructive forces in this world as you build your reputation (2 Corinthians 3:4-5).

A Prayer:

Father God, I realize that I am in the public view here, as well as under Your watchful eye. Please guide me with Your Spirit as I serve in the Kansas Capitol. Help me to be a positive model for others who see me in this role. Open the eyes of our adversaries so that they see the good that is being done through our service. Bless me with wisdom that I may continue to learn from others and from Your Holy Scriptures. I ask this in the Name of Your Son, Jesus. Amen.

¹ Noah Webster. American Dictionary of the English Language. (Webster) 1828.

² The Holy Bible, New King James Version (Thomas Nelson, Inc). 1982.

³ John MacArthur, Called to Lead. (Thomas Nelson, Inc). 2004. p174.

DEVOTIONAL DISCUSSION

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