

Introduction: Paul's Words – Our Pattern for Leadership

(Acts 9:1-6 NKJV) *“Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest {2} and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. {3} As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. {4} Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?” {5} And he said, “Who are You, Lord?” Then the Lord said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.” {6} So he, trembling and astonished, said, “**Lord, what do You want me to do?**” Then the Lord said to him, “Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.””*

When Saul of Tarsus encountered the Lord Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus, he instantly realized his understanding of God was clouded in false reality. Though now physically blinded, he clearly saw his Creator for the first time. This once prideful, powerful Pharisee found himself reduced to an unseeing, humble, helpless human being, sprawled on the ground before the magnificence of Divinity. He was weak and helpless. He was now primed for greatness. His reaction was the only one possible for someone who gets struck with the enormity of an encounter with Christ. All Saul could say was...

“Lord, what do You want me to do?”

You can be sincere, but sincerely wrong!

Eight Words that Shape the Destiny of a Leader

“Lord, what do You want me to do?”

- **The eight most empowering words we can speak**
- **The eight words most pleasing to God**

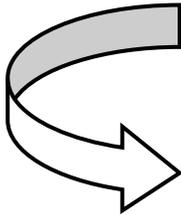
These eight words that Saul first spoke to the Lord carry meanings of tremendous significance for the Kingdom of God and anyone who speaks them.

- They cry out with a voice of total surrender and commitment, saying, *“Lord, I see You clearly. I love You, and now I will serve You unconditionally.”*
- They ask the following questions of great significant...
 1. *“Lord, what are You empowering me to do?”*
 2. *“Lord, what are You authorizing me to do?”*



- The poor
- The brokenhearted
- The captives
- The blind
- The oppressed

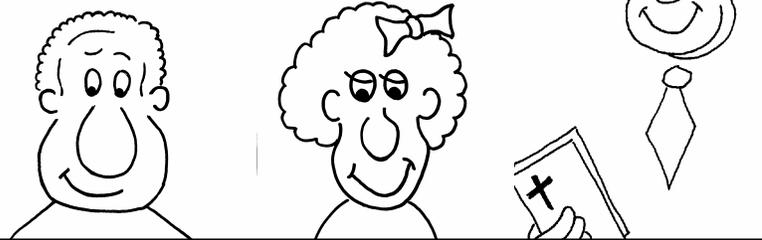
Transformed by the
Word of God!



Authorized & Empowered by God

**Given All Authority – Always for
the Same Purpose:**

(Luke 4:18-19 NKJV) *“The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; {19} To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.”*



**“Lord, what do You
want me to do?”**

His Answer:

- 1. Receive your sight!**
- 2. Be filled with the Holy Spirit!**

(2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV) *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”*

(New Living Translation) *“What this means is that those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A new life has begun!”*

(Acts 9:17 NKJV) *“And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may **receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.**””*

Why did Ananias bring Saul these two particular responses to the question, “Lord, what do you want me to do?” The answer is basic to all Christian service... God had to prepare Saul, His chosen vessel – before He could pour His life-giving grace through him to the world. Empty, leaky and corrupt vessels pour nothing graceful or life giving! Our surrender allows God to mold us to his specifications. To fill us with nothing less than the fullness of Himself!

Notice that God was the Giver, Saul the receiver, and Ananias the messenger. Ananias was vital to the process, but he was neither the Giver nor the receiver. The transaction was purely between Saul and God. However, without Ananias' selfless obedience, there would have been no Apostle Paul! Only God knows how many potential Pauls have been lost to the world because of someone's disobedience!

Saul of Tarsus was transformed. He saw reality through eyes no longer veiled by the darkness of living without Christ! With his newfound sight, call and anointing, Saul was authorized and empowered by the Highest Authority to make a difference... and he did! Now enlightened and filled with God's Spirit, he would become the Apostle Paul. What an amazing thing the grace of God is – to take us from the pit of our sins to a place of significant, satisfying service!

Once Paul knew what the Lord wanted him to do, he began to apply himself with every ounce of commitment he had. He spent years learning how to be effective in the particular task God assigned him. When Paul began to write his epistles, he repeatedly described himself as a new man – somebody transformed, sold out and totally given to serve the Lord. Paul lived for Christ. He never took for granted the wonder of this great gift of his salvation. In Christ, he experienced both joy and tribulation, as a leader in God's kingdom.



Paul

The Holy Spirit inspired every word we read in Paul's epistles. We glean great truths from his writings. These truths help us to be the leaders God desires us to be – leaders like the Apostle. We are all in the process of becoming vessels fit for the Master's use, pouring out the grace of God, making a difference to our lost and dying world!

The words you study on the following pages will help you to understand these great Biblical truths. Appropriate them for your own life. Be a leader in God's kingdom!

Basic Principles of Leadership - Session One

A Study of Paul's Own Descriptions of Himself as a Leader

(Luke 6:45 NKJV) ***“A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.”***



The Apostle

One of the best ways to get to know the qualities of a person is to listen carefully to his or her words. The Bible tells us that *“out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.”* Though we cannot listen to the Apostle Paul's voice, we can read the words his heart spoke, as he penned his letters. Paul's words provide us with a revealing look at his personal understanding

of leadership in the Kingdom of God. They reflect Paul's impressions of himself as a leader. By reflecting on what Paul wrote about himself, we learn the same Biblical leadership principles he experienced in his life. Paul's epistles are far more than a man's words! They are words inspired by the Holy Spirit. They picture how Paul saw the connection between his life, his leadership, and his place among God's people. These words Paul penned become a mirror from which we can reflect upon our lives, call to leadership and place among the people of God.

First Principle:

The Primary Identity of a Leader: A Bondservant!

(Romans 1:1-4 NKJV) ***“Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God {2} which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, {3} concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, {4} and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.”***

(Titus 1:1-3 NKJV) ***“Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness, {2} in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began, {3} but has in due time manifested His word through preaching, which was committed to me according to the commandment of God our Savior;”***

“Bondservant”

Greek: “*doulos*”
In the King James Version this word translates simply as “servant.”

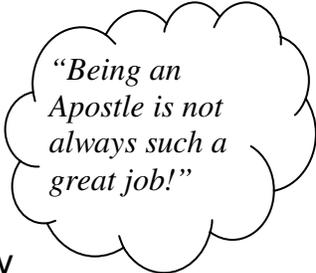
Its original Greek meaning was...

“A man who was a slave to another.”

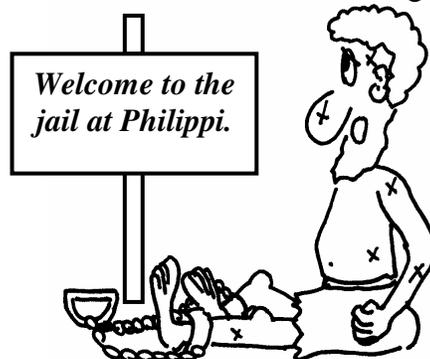
What a Contrast!

Study Paul's words, above, and you will see that he begins both epistles by describing himself as a *"bondservant,"* while carefully portraying his Master as *"the Son of God"* and *"God our Savior."* What a contrast! His choice of words carefully shields him from projecting any sense of self-righteousness, pride or personal importance.

Paul completes the description of himself by combining the term *"bondservant"* (one without any authority or power) with *"Apostle"* (implying great authority and power). He is humble and meek, yet clearly and boldly establishes his authority and power to speak for his Master.



"Being an Apostle is not always such a great job!"



Throughout his writings, we find that Paul is careful of his choice of words. He is concerned about both his own pride and others impressions that he may be prideful. He never sees himself as superior or privileged. He is sensitive to his readers' feelings and perceptions. He is one of them, and one with them! Even so, Paul will never avoid or evade his position as a leader in the body. He consistently sees himself as called to the office of Apostle by his Master, the Lord Jesus Christ. He is determined to fulfill his responsibilities of Apostleship!

In First Century Palestine, a man became a bondservant when he could not pay the debt he owed. Paul understood he could never pay the debt for his sins. He knew that Jesus paid it for

him on the cross, so he correctly acknowledged and labeled himself as a bondservant to Christ.

Paul was a man who saw every aspect of life through a lens of spiritual understanding. He viewed it a great privilege to be a bondservant to the One who paid his debt. It was a position of slavery he could not escape, nor would he want to! He understood that slavery to Christ is the only way to freedom from the world, the devil and an eternity without hope. He was forever grateful that he had been bought with a price – the blood of Jesus. He wrote this to the Romans:

(Romans 7:24-25a New Living Translation) “Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin? {25} Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord”

Everyone is a slave to something. Only slavery to Christ frees us from slavery to sin.

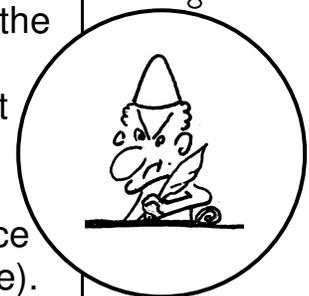
The Good News

(John 8:34-36 NKJV) “Jesus answered them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. {35} And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. {36} Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.”

Paul Defines His Identity as a “Bondservant Leader.”

We often call ourselves “servant leaders.” This term carries the implication that all that we do comes from an abundance of godly love and our desire to be a blessing. True enough, but Paul takes it a significant step further. He acknowledges, through his use of the Greek word “*doulous*” (Greek for “*bondservant*”) that he is not serving just because he is a nice guy (“*doulous*” implies both voluntary and involuntary service).

Paul knows he was purchased with a price. Now he has no choice! How many of us have come to the place where service to the Lord is a place of no choice?



Paul's View of His Service to Christ

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A slave to the Lord 2. A church planter and Father to the flock 3. Not caught up in the things of the world he ministers to 	<p>(Romans 1:1 NKJV) <i>“Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God”</i></p>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Connected to, and ‘through’ Christ. 5. Filled with God’s Grace (He is an imperfect dispenser of perfect grace.) 6. Given his five-fold office by God 7. Having no choice but to be obedient to the faith 	<p>(Romans 1:5 NKJV) <i>“Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name,”</i></p>	<p>Paul’s Perception of His Purpose To bring ... <i>“... obedience to the faith among all nations...”</i></p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Called to “whosoever” – all nations 9. Serving God with his spirit 10. Consistent intercession for the people he serves as their leader 11. A genuine caring for those he is responsible for as their leader 	<p>(Romans 1:9 NKJV) <i>“For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers,”</i></p>	<p>Paul’s Perception of The Process <i>“...whom I serve with my spirit...”</i> (serving in spirit)</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. Knows the source of God’s power: the Gospel at work in us (the death, burial, resurrection and ascension of Christ). The Gospel is more than a message. It is the engine driving a leader’s every step, making that leader’s walk worthy of the call to which he or she was called. 	<p>(Romans 1:16 NKJV) <i>“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”</i></p>	<p>Paul’s Perception of The Power (The empowering force in his life) <i>“...The gospel... it is the power of God”</i></p>

**Strength, success, significance and satisfaction in leadership...
 Come only with surrender!**

Second Principle: Never fall into the trap of trying to demonstrate your own power!

Take care with every word. Seek the Spirit to demonstrate His power.

(1 Corinthians 2:4 NKJV & KJV) *“And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, **but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,**”*

(1 Corinthians 2:4 God’s Word Translation) *“I didn’t speak my message with persuasive intellectual arguments. I spoke my message **with a show of spiritual power**”*

(1 Corinthians 2:4 New Living Translation) *“And my message and my preaching were very plain. I did not use wise and persuasive speeches, **but the Holy Spirit was powerful among you.**”*

(1 Corinthians 2:4 NIV) *“My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, **but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power,**”*

Who’s Power? His Power!

Put the Cookies on a Lower Shelf!

The process of speaking for God requires the bondservant leader to sort out the difference between persuasive intellectual argument using manipulative words and just plain communicating of spiritual truth.

One preacher tells a story of going to preach in a simple country church, as a young man fresh out of Bible school. He had prepared this particular sermon with a long, serious study and felt he had some truly great theological points to make. As he was preaching through these various points, the crowd began to get restless. Finally, from the very last row, a farmer dressed in overalls and a plaid shirt stood to his feet. He waited patiently until the preacher had to take a breath between his lengthy sentences, that never seemed to end. “Hey preacher,” the man called out. “Could you put those cookies on a lower shelf?” (Source Unknown)

As people called to present the Gospel truth, we need to examine what we say and how we say it. We must neither lose

our constant deference to, and dependence upon the Holy Spirit, nor our understanding that we are bondservant leaders. We are just sheep with bells on our necks! Let God be God. Is there any pattern or habitual way of speaking you use (religious sounding speech patterns are a good example) that hinders the power of God and the simplicity of His Gospel? These are questions well worth pondering.

Care with Every Word

(1 Corinthians 2:1-5 NKJV) *“And I, brethren, when I came to you, did **not** come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. {2} For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. {3} I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. {4} And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, **but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, {5} that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.**”*

Verse 1

Paul had no interest in coming with...

1. Excellence of speech (depending on his personal skills and education).
2. Excellence of wisdom (impressed with his own wisdom and trying to impress others with the same).
3. Persuasive, manipulative, deceiving words (words lacking in Gospel power).

Verse 2

4. Paul was not interested in knowing the irrelevant (those things that did not matter in the eternal scope of things).

Here is how the Apostle came...

1. Paul came, knowing (with great intimacy, and personally identifying with the meaning of) *“Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.”*
We must constantly remind ourselves of Christ crucified. What does that great event mean to us? We must continually ask ourselves whether we are maintaining a consistent, personal and intense sense of intimacy with the

Lord and His suffering? Or... is our awareness of His sacrifice only an occasional thing?

Verse 3

2. Paul came communicating power (not just any power, but “*dunamus*” power (purely divine dynamite!). His words carried the message that God was all power. His words were, of themselves, filled with power. They were a demonstration of *dunamus*. Both the carrier (Paul’s words) and what was carried (the Gospel message) were dynamite in the hands of Paul’s mighty Lord and Savior! Paul was ready to explode with the power of God. He had a short fuse, a fuse God could use!
3. Not only were Paul’s words explosive, but he also walked in an explosive anointing! A small spark would set off that anointing into a powerfully unstoppable force. That spark was Paul’s ever-present zeal for the God he served. Paul was consumed with the fire! He was fully convinced the fire was unstoppable! He was the greatest firebug in the history of the world!

Challenges

- What is the message you come with?
- What methods do you use to present it? Are they filled with power, exploding with zeal? Is there fire in your life?
- What are you demonstrating with your life and ministry?
- Who and what do you have faith in?
- Do other people instantly recognize who and what you have faith in, and has your faith been contagious?

These are vital issues. Look carefully at these questions again. What needs to change in, and around you? What steps can you take today?

Let's review what we have covered so far.

The eight most liberating words we can speak are, ***“Lord, what do you want me to do?”***

- These words empower and authorize us to speak for the King!
- God's power and authority is always given to us to bring transformation!
- God's answer to Saul, on the Damascus Road (given by Ananias) was to receive two gifts: (1) his sight, and (2) the filling of the Holy Spirit! We can apply these truths to our lives and leadership responsibilities today.

1st Principle of Bond service

The primary identity of a leader is that of a bondservant (one who could not pay a debt and now serves the One who the debt is owed to). The bondservant's service is more than voluntary, benevolent service. **Being a bondservant to the Lord is a combination of desiring to serve and having no choice!**

- We looked at Paul's view of his bond service to Christ (Romans, Chapter 1). He revealed twelve qualities of bond service - in the ways he described himself – ways we can apply to ourselves.
- Paul's writings revealed his perception of His purpose as a bondservant – to bring obedience to the faith to everyone he could. The purpose has not changed in two thousand years!
- He showed us his perception of the process of being a bondservant. It is a process of serving in spirit.
- He revealed to us where the power comes from for God's bondservant. It is the power of the Gospel!

2nd Principle of Bond Service

Never fall into the trap of demonstrating what you perceive to be your own power.

Take care with every word you utter for the Lord. Seek the Holy Spirit to demonstrate His power in you and your words.

- Depend continually and completely on the Holy Spirit.

NO CHOICE!

- Always remember who you are and Who He is. When you are communicating the Gospel, it will keep you safe, and your ministry will remain significant.
- Keep those cookies on the lower shelf. Stay real. Watch out for pride!
 - Know Jesus.
 - Communicate His power.
 - Burn with His anointing.

What do YOU think?

Reflect honestly and transparently on the following questions for discussion:

1. Elaborate on what it means to you to be a bondservant?
2. Pick one item from Paul's twelve views of his service to Christ, above, and reflect on what is difficult about this issue for you.
3. When do you have the most trouble with putting the cookies on a lower shelf? (In every kind of communication)
4. Discuss the kind of situation in which your pride most often gets in the way of your unconditionally loving those you minister to? Be specific as to when, where and who!
5. Discuss the kind of ministry situation in which you most often try to make yourself look good to others.

Go to the next page for Session Two

Basic Principles of Leadership – Session Two

A Study of Paul's Own Descriptions of Himself as a Leader

The New Testament often uses the term “walk” when it speaks of our lives as God’s people. Therefore, life can be Biblically and accurately viewed as a journey along a path through life, step by step (a walk). Each step we take has the potential to walk the path God has prepared for us, or... to take us off that path onto another (one that somebody else has prepared for us)! We ought to be experiencing a walk worthy of our call from the Lord, but should we get sidetracked, our walk becomes eternally worthless, unworthy of that same call on our lives.

Biblical Checklist: **Walking Worthy of the Call**

(Ephesians 4:1) *“I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to **walk worthy** of the calling with which you were called...*

- {2} *with all lowliness and gentleness,*
- with longsuffering,*
- bearing with one another in love,*
- {3} *endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”*

(Colossians 1:10) *“that you may **walk worthy** of the Lord,*

- fully pleasing Him,*
- being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;”*

(1 Thessalonians 2:12) *“that you would **walk worthy** of God who calls you into...*

- His own kingdom*
- and glory.”*

Paul understood that the call to leadership requires a series of appropriate decisions and actions. These define how we walk out the will of God. We are to do our best to make these decisions and actions submissive to a spiritual process within. In doing so, we insure that our walks will be worthy of the call of God for each of us.

Paul’s effectiveness in communicating the Gospel, and in demonstrating its power, was determined by the process of spiritual submission at work in his life. These three Scriptures he wrote (above) provide a clear checklist for us, as we weigh our decisions and actions as leaders in God’s kingdom.



Third Principle: Watch your walk. It is highly contagious! (It is a Template – A Pattern – An Example)

Your walk is highly contagious! It has the potential to greatly infect those around you. **Leaders in God's kingdom are trusted with the responsibility and opportunity to be copied by others.** People will follow you in the same way you follow Christ. They will imitate you just as you imitate Christ.

Leadership is an act of constant impartation. Every leader imparts something to everyone he or she leads, every day, in every way! Leadership ought to impart many things. One of the most important is the wisdom of God. Paul wrote about his ministry and described his own spoken words as full of "the wisdom of God."

The Wisdom of God is revealed through His Spirit A Look at 1 Corinthians 2:6-16

What ought we to be speaking?

Verse 6

"However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, **yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.**

Paul had no interest in coming with...

4. Current political correctness (Those things trendy or fashionable that were promoted by people of influence or power)
5. Currently acceptable thinking that had been taught in liberal universities or theological centers. He said of such things, that they were *"coming to nothing."*

Verses 7-13

{7} But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, {8} which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. {9} But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." {10} But

God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. {11} For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. {12} Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. {13} *These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.*

Here's how the Apostle came...

1. He came speaking the wisdom that God supplied.

- Paul called this wisdom a mystery. It was wisdom that was hidden from the beginnings of time, hidden specifically for the age of the New Covenant, and New Covenant believers.
- Think about our earlier reference to Paul's meeting with Ananias (Acts 9:17). Paul received something far better than his natural sight from the Lord Jesus Christ. He received spiritual insight – the spiritual ability to receive wisdom from God in his every day life.
- Every born-again believer has the same ability within to see things as God sees them.

2. He came with an ability to discern the spirits... and to understand the spiritual implications of everything he faced. Paul was a master at the application of what he had been taught!

- As believers, who have received the person and the work of the Holy Spirit, we have the same opportunity to speak and discern spiritual wisdom that Paul had. Therefore, we can apply this life-changing knowledge of God to every situation. Now, we also have the potential to walk with great authority and power, ***“comparing spiritual things with spiritual.”***
- With a Teacher like the Holy Spirit, we ought not to go wrong. He has not only taught us, He now stands with us. When we speak according to His will, His authority and power back up our words. We need only apply what we have been taught!

For some, this is tremendous assurance. Sadly, for others, it is a lost opportunity.

(Acts 9:17b NKJV) "...*Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.*"

**Who's Power?
His Power!**

How ought we to be thinking?

Continuing our look at 1 Corinthians 2:6-16

{14} But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. {15} But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. {16} For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ."

Verse 14

The natural man, (anyone without a close personal, committed relationship Christ) is totally blind to the things of God. Such a person is literally (and most often unknowingly) enslaved to dark spiritual powers. The path is a dark one! Each step carries the potential to become a misstep, and destruction is surely on the way! For this "*natural man*," at best, there is great distortion of the truths of God's Word (truth that is vital to our survival, success and ultimate victory). The natural mind cannot discern these spiritual truths.

The Natural man may either be a person without Christ, or a carnal Christian.

Verse 15

The "*spiritual person*" is able to judge all things. What is a spiritual person? In the Kingdom of God, a spiritual person may be defined in many ways, including the following ways:

1. Filled with the Holy Spirit
2. Walking in humble submission to God
3. Hungry for more of God
4. Thirsting for more knowledge of His Word

What can you add to this definition? Explain your choices.

Verse 16

Paul asks his readers, “*For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?*” Then he immediately answers this question with: “*But we have the mind of Christ.*” So, his answer is that “we,” have known the mind of the Lord. *Paul is saying... In our born again experience, we have been filled with the Spirit of God. His indwelling presence has forever changed our thinking. Our thought processes are no longer limited to natural thinking. We have been infused with a God-kind of thinking. We are now able to know how God views things, and to see and understand why He views things in the ways He does. What was previously foolishness to the “natural man” is now completely acceptable to the “spiritual man” (the man a believer can become! As leaders, we are now equipped to watch our walk, and make it a worthy walk!*

As we did in the first session, let’s add to and review what we have covered so far.

Introduction and Session 1.

The eight most liberating words we can speak are, “*Lord, what do you want me to do?*”

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Never fall into the trap of demonstrating what you perceive to be your own power. Take care with every word you utter for the Lord. Seek the Holy Spirit to demonstrate His power in you and your words.

Session 2.

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As leaders, we are now equipped to watch our walk, and make it a worthy walk! Are we speaking the wisdom of God because we have the mind of Christ?

What do YOU think?

Reflect honestly and transparently on the following questions for discussion:

1. In your own words, define a "walk worthy of the Lord."
2. What is there about you that people most desire to imitate?
3. ...Least desire to imitate? (A tough question to answer honestly!)
4. What is the one thing you would like to have that others would want to imitate?

Go to the next page for Session Three

Basic Principles of Leadership – Session Three

A Study of Paul's Own Descriptions of Himself as a Leader

(1 Corinthians 4:1-2 NKJV) *“Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and **stewards of the mysteries of God.** {2} Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.”*

We have already seen that Paul identified himself as a bondservant of Christ (Romans 1 and Titus 1). In 1 Corinthians 4, Paul labels himself as a “*steward of the mysteries of God.*” We can ask two questions. First, what is a “**steward**”? Second, what are the “**mysteries of God**”?

Verse 1

The Mysteries of God...

(1) The Gospel of Christ and (2) Christ in You!

(Ephesians 6:19 NKJV) *“and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known **the mystery of the gospel,**”*

(1 Timothy 3:16 NKJV) *“And without **controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.**”*

(Colossians 1:26-27 NKJV) *“the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but **now has been revealed to His saints.** {27} **To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.**”*

Verse 2

The Greek word Paul used for “*steward*” is *oikonomos*, pronounced oy-kon-om'-os. It means: “the manager of a household, an overseer, a governor, an administrator, a supervisor.” A steward is a caretaker – someone responsible for the property or possessions of another.

The Greek word Paul used for “*mysteries*” is *musterion*, pronounced moos-tay'-ree-on. It simply means a secret or “mystery.” It refers to something whose meanings are hidden.

(1 Corinthians 4:1-2 NKJV – Paraphrased)

*“When you see us, you will bondslaves to Jesus. Look closely. You will see we are caretaker-bondslaves. God has assigned us this special task of the utmost importance. We care for the “hidden things of God!” Our primary responsibility in this task is that we stay **absolutely committed to serving our Master, being found reliable in every way.**”*

**Fourth Principle:
Absolute Commitment and Total Reliability...
Standard Equipment, Never Optional!**

Zero Tolerance for Self!

Paul’s view of bondservant-stewardship leaves no room for being partially committed or lukewarm. His life has been completely surrendered. He does not allow himself the freedom to grumble and complain, or to hold back anything. He is focused and filled with God’s purpose. He defines his reason for being as one with God’s call. He sees God’s demands upon his life as unquestionable – not subject to any judgment on his part. He is fully comfortable with and completely satisfied to be God’s bondservant-steward.

The Primary Purpose of Leadership

What motivates you as a leader?

List the four primary motivational factors that drive you.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

What motivated Paul, as a leader?

(Ephesians 3:1-7 NKJV) *“For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles; {2} if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, {3} how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, {4} by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), {5} which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: {6} that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel, {7} of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.”*

Paul’s motivations were **entirely self-denying** and **completely centered on Christ and others - never himself**. He had a fiery, consuming desire to see people become just like him – fellow heirs and partakers of God’s promises in Christ! That was it... Nothing more, nothing less!

Our natural tendencies are to comfort and care for ourselves – to put ourselves first (the “Me, Myself and I Syndrome”).

- **How do we become like Paul?**
- **How do we learn to be faithful in our service and stewardship?**
- **How do we please God?**

(Romans 8:8-9a NKJV) *“So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. {9} But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you.”*

(2 Corinthians 5:7, 9-11 NKJV) *“For we **walk by faith**, not by sight... {9} **Therefore we make it our aim**, whether present or absent, **to be well pleasing to Him**. {10} For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. {11} Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.”*

Six Practical Steps to Crucifying “Me, Myself and I” (Six Steps to Selfless Leadership)

Taken from 1 Thessalonians 2:1-13, 19 NKJV

1. Be careful to build a Biblical foundation for your life. It will carry you through the inevitable opposition and persecution.

“For you yourselves know, brethren, that our coming to you was not in vain. {2} But even after we had suffered before and were spitefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we were bold in our God to speak to you the gospel of God in much conflict. {3} For our exhortation did not come from error or uncleanness, nor was it in deceit.”

Paul was careful in his presentation of the Gospel.

- a. He never allowed opposition to reduce his level of boldness. He was careful with his theology. His presentation was truthful in every way.
- b. His life was a model of holiness. He refused to pollute his witness.
- c. He never deceived anyone about anything. His character was Christ-like.
- d.

2. Always aim to please God!

“{4} But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts. {5} For neither at any time did we use flattering words, as you know, nor a cloak for covetousness; God is witness. {6} Nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, when we might have made demands as apostles of Christ.”

- a. Everything he did was aimed to please God.
- b. He never flattered people for selfish reasons.
- c. He never sought prominence or self-importance.

3. Never separate what you preach from who you are!

“{7} But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children. {8} So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.”

- a. Paul was gentle. He cherished the people God gave him.
- b. He was a mentor, imparting his life along with his message.

4. Always prejudge your ministry actions. Make sure they will be blessings, not burdens.

*"{9} For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil; for laboring night and day, **that we might not be a burden to any of you**, we preached to you the gospel of God."*

- a. Paul was a busy man, self-motivated, self-starting.
- b. He was consistently careful not to become burdensome to those he ministered to.

5. Always be intentional with your non-ministry behavior! Make sure your life preaches, even when you are not!

*"{10} You are witnesses, and God also, **how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe;**"*

Paul watched his walk! His behavior was never intentionally damaging to himself or others around him. He was the same reflection of Christ, in or out of ministry times.

6. Be a father-like one to those you are charged with! (Ladies, be a Proverbs 31 mother to those you are charged with!)

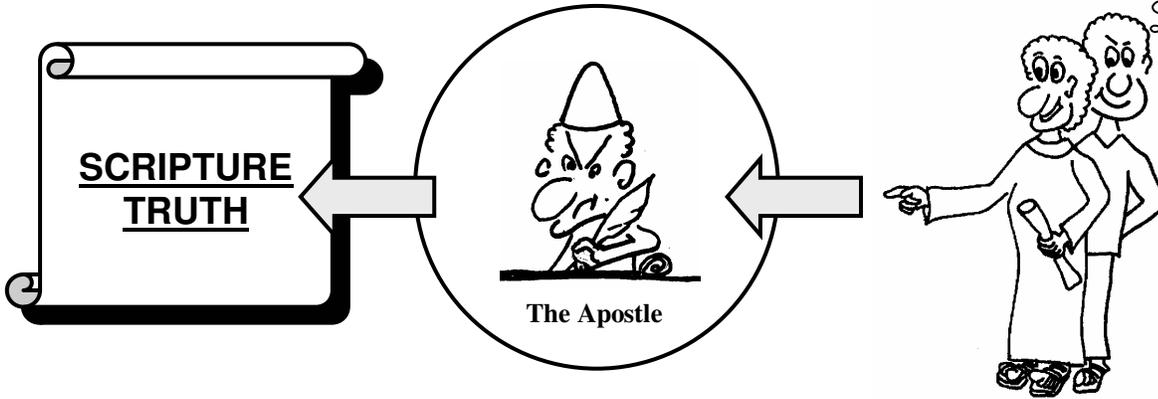
*"{11} as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, **as a father does his own children**, {12} that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory."*

Paul's leadership (his spiritual authority) had three elements.

- a. He encouraged.
- b. He comforted.
- c. He held others accountable.

"{13} For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe. {19} For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?"

Paul was a leader who led because he followed the truth and others followed him. Some things never change! People still follow leaders who follow truth!



Fifth Principle: What you Follow is What you Become.

Every leader is a follower.

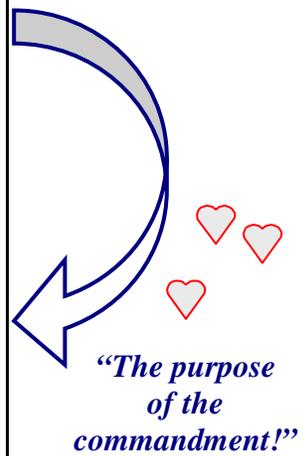
- Who or what are you following?
- What you become is what others who follow you become!
- You will stand before God one day and be accountable for what your followers have become. Never forget that they are His sheep! You are simply given the high honor and privilege of being God’s bondservant-steward!

The Call to Leadership - A Command from God

(1 Timothy 1:1-5 NKJV) “Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the commandment of God our Savior and the Lord Jesus Christ, our hope, {2} To Timothy, a true son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord. {3} As I urged you when I went into Macedonia; remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine, {4} nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith...

{5} Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith,”

“agape love...”   



Responding to the call to leadership is obeying a commandment to assume heavenly appointed duties in the Kingdom of God. **Too many of us treat it like a request. It is no request! It is a charge from heaven.**

Patience – the Enduring Platform of Leadership

(1 Timothy 1:12-16 NKJV) *“And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry, {13} although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. {14} And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. {15} This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. {16} However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that **in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.**”*

Paul said that his life was a pattern displayed in the hands of God – an example to be reproduced in others. He did not believe God saved him so he could be an island to himself, isolated from and never affecting others. Paul knew his sufferings had handfuls of purpose behind them. He was a pattern for countless others, who would also suffer for their faith. Paul understood better than most, that following Christ was not an easy life and that it demanded patience.

Read carefully what Paul wrote to the Galatians...

James, Jesus' brother, gave us clear Scriptural confirmation that God will allow us to go through hard times. The Lord has one particular reason for allowing suffering in the lives of His people. Leaders are no exception:

(James 1:2-4 NKJV) *“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, {3} knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. {4} But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”*

(Galatians 2:20 NKJV) “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

(Luke 9:23 NKJV) “Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.””

Jesus’ words make the conditions for following Him perfectly clear and, clearly less than inviting. Following Christ demands a commitment to something far greater than any earthly comfort or reward. Many of those the Lord called to leadership walked with Him for a while and then abandoned Him when the going got tough. Some things never change!

**Sixth Principle:
Hard Times are Inevitable... Commitment, Faith and
Patience are Optional!**

Review - Six Principles of Leadership

- 1. The Primary Identity of a Leader: A Bondservant!**
- 2. Never fall into the trap of trying to demonstrate your own power!**
- 3. Watch your walk. It is highly contagious!**
- 4. Absolute Commitment and Total Reliability... Standard Equipment, Never Optional!**
- 5. What you Follow is What you Become.**
- 6. Hard Times are Inevitable... Commitment, Faith and Patience are Optional!**