

SeLD-326 Case Studies in leadership for Church Elders

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The essential virtues of a local church leader

- 1 Tim. 3:1-5: “This *is* a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; one who rules his own house well, having *his* children in submission with all reverence (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?).”

The essential virtues of a local church leader

- 1 Tim. 3:6-10: “not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the *same* condemnation as the devil. Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. Likewise deacons *must be* reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, holding then mystery of the faith with a pure conscience. But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being *found* blameless.”

The essential virtues of a local church leader

- ▶ Paul asks Timothy to reproduce leaders who are:
- ▶ Temperate.
- ▶ prudent.
- ▶ respectable.
- ▶ gentle.

The essential virtues of a local church leader

- ▶ peaceable.
- ▶ not greedy or materialistic.
- ▶ dignified, and not proud.
- ▶ Leaders in the church to have good reputations in the community both inside and outside the church.

7 Principles that can change your life

- Pray for guidance and counsels and give thanks for your blessings each day.
- Drink deeply from good books, specially the Bible.
- Be true to yourself and authentic to others.

7 Principles that can change your life

- Show interest to help others.
- Be friendship.
- Develop your listening skills.
- Develop your ability to communicate ideas clearly.

Case of study 1

- I am going through a difficult situation in my marriage. I am the wife of the first elder of the church, and lately my husband is angry for anything, he is filled with anger and bitterness for insignificant things. I feel very sad and I feel that it is getting very complicated to live like this, because all the time I feel that he can get angry. Sometimes we have even slept in separate rooms because he gets upset and decides to go to the other bedroom. Honestly, I'm desperate! Serving God is my life. But every day I feel more discouraged and as an elder's wife it is very difficult to tell other people my situation! What do you advise me?

- What ethical and leadership elements does this situation wrap up?

Case of study 2

- A pastor for several churches, on Wednesday morning, calls the first elder of one of his churches, and asks him if he can help delay the Sabbath school program by half an hour, so that he, who must preach in another church before, may arrive in time to preach in the church that the elder leads. And the elder tells him that he will. On Saturday, while the pastor, after having preached his first sermon, is driving to get to the church, he receives a message from another of the elders of the church asking what is happening, for that the first elder of the church is already preaching, but in the list of preachers for the church the pastor should preach that Saturday.

- Did the pastor delegate too much responsibility to the elder in this situation?
- What could the pastor and elder have done differently to divert this leadership issue?
- One of the Laws of leadership (according to John Maxwell) is that leaders create leaders. Would you say this case study is a side effect of creating leaders?

Case of study 3

- A case of study in the Bible.
- 2 Kings 6:1-7.

Begin With The Evaluation

- Analyze your current reality to be able to define the real needs (2 Kings 6:1).
- Understanding your needs is essential before you can go to where you want to go.

Proceed to the Planning

- Develop a plan that is as clear and detailed as possible (2 Kings 6:2).
- Where do you want to go? What and how many are the resources that you can count on? What is your strategy for each one to perform their task?

Make sure to always act within the will of God

- Know that when counting with the approval of God, the planned success is guaranteed (2 Kings 6:2).
- Develop a life of communion with God and always wait for His approval before continuing.

Seek support from others and act interdependently

- Do not act alone. The support of your leaders and partners is essential in order to achieve success (2 Kings 6:3).
- Seek counsel from your leaders and ask them for their active participation.

Get into action and begin to bring the plans into reality

- Don't forget that careful planning is not enough to achieve success. This must be followed by diligent work (2 Kings 6:4).
- Continue to convey the vision until you see it transformed into action.

Continue to inspire your team

- Identify your traumas. Remember that good planning and even the approval of God does not remove all the difficulties (2 Kings 6:5).
- You should keep in mind that the problems, and sometimes the tragedies, are an inherent part of life in this world, and it can attract your attention when you least expect it.

See, enjoy and share the miracles that God performs

- Remember that no problem is too difficult to be solved by God (2 Kings 6:6).
- Trust in God, cry out to Him and allow Him to act. He will make possible what is impossible for you.

Assign each one a responsibility
and fulfill yours

- Respond to the miracles, acting according to the providence of God (2 Kings 6:7).
- The miracle will be completed only when we fulfill our part.

Decide Always to Obey

- Remember that the decision is in your hands. You must choose to obey or not to. Obedience is always a decision (2 Kings 6:7).
- When we decide to obey God we open the door for Him to do miracles in our lives and in our favor.

- “Let those who are teachers and leaders in our cause take their stand firmly on Bible ground in regard to health reform, and give a straight testimony to those who believe we are living in the last days of this earth's history. A line of distinction must be drawn between those who serve God and those who serve themselves.”
(Ellen White, Christian Leadership, 75).

- “Some have advanced the thought that as we near the close of time, every child of God will act independently of any religious organization. But I have been instructed by the Lord that in this work there is no such thing as every man's being independent. The stars of heaven are all under law, each influencing the other to do the will of God, yielding their common obedience to the law that controls their action. And, in order that the Lord's work may advance healthfully and solidly, His people must draw together.” (Ellen White, Gospel Workers, 487).