



The Need for Christian Leadership

SUNDAY EVENING MESSAGE (September 4, 2011)

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sermon by Ray Reynolds

Introduction: Most people have opinions on the greatest needs of the church. There are dozens of "great" needs in the church. As an advocate of mentoring, I feel that Christian leadership is one of the greatest needs in the church today. Tonight, we are going to be studying five different types of Christian leadership and how we each work together in the kingdom. Let's study together

Discussion:

I. Elders That Will Shepherd

"What I say is true: A anyone wanting to become an overseer desires a good work. A n overseer must not give people a reason to criticize him, and he must have only one wife. He must be self-controlled, wise, respected by others, ready to welcome guests, and able to teach. He must not drink too much wine or like to fight, but rather be gentle and peaceable, not loving money. He must be a good family leader, having children who cooperate with full respect. (If someone does not know how to lead the family, how can that person take care of God's church?) But an elder must not be a new believer, or he might be too proud of himself and be judged guilty just as the devil was.⁷ A n elder must also have the respect of people who are not in the church so he will not be criticized by others and caught in the devil's trap." I Timothy 3:1-7 (NCV)

II. Deacons That Will Serve

" In the same way, deacons must be respected by others, not saying things they do not mean. They must not drink too much wine or try to get rich by cheating others. With a clear conscience they must follow the secret of the faith that God made known to us. Test them first. Then let them serve as deacons if you find nothing wrong in them. In the same way, women must be respected by others. They must not speak evil of others. They must be self-controlled and trustworthy in everything. Deacons must have only one wife and be good leaders of their children and their own families. Those who serve well as deacons are making an honorable place for themselves, and they will be very bold in their faith in Christ Jesus." I Timothy 3:8-13 (NCV)

III. Ministers That Will Preach

"I give you a command in the presence of God and Christ Jesus, the One who will judge the living and the dead, and by his coming and his kingdom: Preach the Good News. Be ready at all times, and tell people what they need to do. Tell them when they are wrong. Encourage them with great patience and careful teaching, because the time will come when people will not listen to the true teaching but will find many more teachers who please them by saying the things they want to hear. They will stop listening to the truth and will begin to follow false stories. But you should control yourself at all times, accept troubles, do the work of telling the Good News, and complete all the duties of a servant of God." II Timothy 4:1-5 (NCV)

IV. Teachers That Will Educate

"By now you should be teachers, but you need someone to teach you again the first lessons of God's message. You still need the teaching that is like milk. You are not ready for solid food. A anyone who lives on milk is still a baby and knows nothing about right teaching. But solid food is for those who are grown up. They are mature enough to know the difference between good and evil. " Hebrews 5:12-14 (NCV)

V. Members That Will Work

"And Christ gave gifts to people—he made some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to go and tell the Good News, and some to have the work of caring for and teaching God's people. Christ gave those gifts to prepare God's holy people for the work of serving, to make the body of Christ stronger. This work must continue until we are all joined together in the same faith and in the same knowledge of the Son of God. We must become like a mature person, growing until we become like Christ and have his perfection. Then we will no longer be babies. We will not be tossed about like a ship that the waves carry one way and then another. We will not be influenced by every new teaching we hear from people who are trying to fool us. They make plans and try any kind of trick to fool people into following the wrong path. No! Speaking the truth with love, we will grow up in every way into Christ, who is the head. The whole body depends on Christ, and all the parts of the body are joined and held together. Each part does its own work to make the whole body grow and be strong with love." Ephesians 4:11-16 (NCV)

Conclusion: Are you letting God lead you? Is Christ your great example? Have you decided to use your talents to bear the fruit of the Spirit? Find a leader. If you can't find a leader, become a leader. May God continue to bless His church.

WORD OF THE DAY = "LEADER"