

# Leadership

These lessons are for people who care about the church, that is, who love their brothers in Christ and want to help them grow and be strong in their faith. Although having special lessons for those who are called to exercise leadership in the church and/or shepherd God's flock, the biblical principles exposed here should be useful for all Christians. After all, the Bible calls us to care for one another.

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## **SHEPHERDING THE FLOCK OF GOD**

Psalm 23:1-6

The Lord is my shepherd; I will lack nothing. He makes me rest in green fields. He takes me beside the waters of rest; refresh my soul. He guides me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me: your rod and your staff comfort me. You prepare a table for me in the presence of my adversaries, you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Kindness and mercy will surely follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever and ever.

(The Lord is the perfect example of the Pastor. So, follow his example to the point that the brothers can substitute your name in place of "The Lord...", look you in the face and, in all sincerity, say the you this psalm. This is our challenge.)

Ezekiel 34:2-5

Woe to the shepherds of Israel who feed themselves! ..The weak you did not strengthen, the sick you did not heal, the broken you did not bind, the lost you did not bring back and the lost you did not seek: but you ruled over them with rigor and harshness. So they spread out, because there was no shepherd, and they became pasture for all the beasts of the field.

14-16;

I will feed them good pastures, and the high mountains of Israel will be their pasture; They will lie down there in good pasture, and they will have dry pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will feed my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. The lost I will seek, the lost I will bring back, the broken I will bind, the sick I will strengthen: but the fat and the strong I will destroy; I will pasture them with justice.

Isaiah 40:11

As a shepherd, he will pasture his flock; He will gather the lambs in his arms and carry them in his bosom; those who breastfeed, he will guide gently.

1 Peter 5:1-4;

I appeal to the priests among you, as a priest like them and a witness to the sufferings of Christ, as someone who will participate in the glory to be revealed: Shepherd the flock of God that is in your care, watching over it; not out of obligation, but of free will, as God wants; nor out of greed, but desirous of service; nor as rulers over those entrusted to them, but as examples to the flock. When the Supreme Shepherd appears, you will receive the imperishable crown of glory.

### **John 10:2-5:**

He who enters the door is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the door for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his sheep by name and leads them outside. After leading out all his sheep, he goes before them, and they follow him because they know his voice; but they will never follow a stranger; in fact they will flee from him, because they do not recognize the voice of strangers.

11-15;

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives his life for the sheep. The employee is not the shepherd to whom the sheep belong. So, when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the herd and scatters them. He runs away because he is a salaryman, and doesn't care about the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep, and they know me; just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.

Acts 20:28-32;

Take care of yourselves and of all the flock over which the Holy Spirit has placed you as bishops, to shepherd the church of God, which he purchased with his own blood. I know that after my departure, fierce wolves will enter your midst and will not spare the flock. And from among yourselves, men will arise who will distort the truth, in order to attract the disciples to themselves. Therefore, watch! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each one of you, night and day, with tears. Now I commit you to God and to the word of His

grace, which can build them up and give them an inheritance among all who are sanctified.

### **1 Timothy 3:1-7;**

This statement is trustworthy: if someone wants to be a bishop, he wants a noble role. Therefore, the bishop must be blameless, the husband of one wife, sober, prudent, respectable, hospitable, and able to teach; he must not be attached to wine, nor violent, but rather, kind, peaceful, and not attached to money. He must govern his own family well, having his children subject to him, with all dignity (If someone does not know how to govern their own family, how can they take care of God's church?). He cannot be newly converted, lest he become arrogant and fall into the same condemnation as the devil. He must also have a good reputation before outsiders, so that he does not fall into discredit, nor into the snare of the devil.

### **Ephesians 4:11-16;**

And he appointed some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare the saints for the work of the ministry, so that the body of Christ may be built up, until we all attain unity, of the faith and knowledge of the Son of God, and come to maturity, reaching the measure of the fullness of Christ, so that we are no longer children, carried to and fro by the waves, nor tossed here and there by every wind of doctrine and by the cunning and cleverness of men who lead them into error. Rather, following the truth in love, let us grow in everything into him who is the head, Christ, from whom the whole body, fitted together and united, by the help of all the joints, grows and builds itself up in love, to the extent that each part performs its function.

### **Titus 1:5-9;**

presbyters in each city, as I instructed him: The presbyter must be blameless, the husband of one wife, and have believing children who will not be accused of licentiousness and insubordination. Because he is in charge of the work of God, it is necessary that the bishop be blameless, not proud, not quarrelsome, not addicted to wine, not violent, not greedy for dishonest gain.

But he must be hospitable, a lover of good, sensible, just, consecrated, self-controlled, and holding fast to the faithful message as taught, so that he may be able to encourage others through sound doctrine and to refute those who oppose it.

## **MUTUAL RELATIONSHIPS AND DUTIES**

1. Rom 15:7 Therefore accept one another, just as Christ accepted you, so that you may glorify God.
2. Rom 12:5 ...so also in Christ we, who are many, form one body, and each member is part of all the others.
3. 1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.
4. Rom 12:16 Have the same attitude towards each other. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of lower station. Do not be wise in your own eyes.
5. Col 3:9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with your practices,
6. Eph 4:25 Therefore, each of you must abandon lies and speak the truth to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body.
7. Heb 10:24,25 And let us consider one another to encourage one another to love and good works. let us not give up meeting together as a church, as some people are accustomed to do, but let us encourage one another, even more so as you see the Day approaching.
8. Rom 14:19 Therefore, let us strive to promote everything that leads to peace and mutual edification.

9. Eph 4:2 Be completely humble and gentle, patient, bearing with one another in love.

10. 1 Pe 4:9 Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.

11. 1 Cor 11:33 Therefore, my brothers, when you come together to eat, wait for one another.

12. 1 Pe 5:5 In the same way, young people, submit yourselves to those who are older. Be humble to one another, because "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

13. Eph 5:21 Submit yourselves to one another, out of fear of Christ.

14. Heb 3:13 - Instead, encourage one another every day, as long as it is called "today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin,

15. Jas 5:16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

16. Eph 4:32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God forgave you in Christ.

17. Col 3:13 Bear with one another and forgive any grievances you have against one another. Forgive as God forgave you.

18. 1 Cor 12:25 ... so that there will be no division in the body, but that all members will have equal care for one another.

19. Gal 6:2 Bear one another's heavy burdens and, in this way, fulfill the law of Christ.

20. 1 Thes 4:18 Comfort one another with these words.

21. John 13:34 "A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."

22. Rom 13:8 Owe nothing to anyone except love for one another, for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law.

23. 1 Thes 4:9 As for brotherly love, we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have already been taught by God to love one another.

24. 1 John 3:11 This is the message you have heard from the beginning: that we love one another.

25. 1 John 3:23 - And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as he commanded us.

26. 1 John 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love comes from God. He who loves is born of God and knows God.

27. 1 John 4:11 - Beloved, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

28. 2 John 5 And now I ask you, madam - not as if I were writing a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning - that we love one another.

29. 1 Thes 3:12 May the Lord make your love for one another and for everyone grow and overflow, following the example of our love for you.

From these verses, it becomes obvious that the main work in the church is very personal. It deals with relationships much more than structures, programs, projects or institutions. Also, the work of caring for brothers in Christ is not reserved exclusively for certain people but is the work of each member of the body of Christ.



Love, edify, counsel, care, endure, bear burdens, maintain unity, console, exhort, warn, comfort, help, encourage, encourage, confess, pray, host, fellowship - Jesus calls us to do this for one another.

It is clear from all this that it is not possible to live as Jesus wants, apart from the communion of the church. Examine yourself and decide whether you will be excited about doing the Lord's will or not. There is no excuse for not being active and faithful in the services and works of the churches.

## **HELPING A BROTHER REALIZE HIS POTENTIAL**

INTRODUCTION: Like a seed, each person has hidden within themselves the capacity for good development. We want to inspire in them the greatness of being all they can be. At least two factors are important - motivation and environment.

1. Motivation: People are motivated from within and without, but everyone is already motivated towards something. A child may not be motivated to study but will spend hours playing football. Our challenge is not so much to transform the person but to give them good direction.

2. Environment: Like the seed, all the good that is inside will only manifest if it is placed in an environment conducive to growth. We want to create this environment. Consider some important things we can do to motivate and create the right environment for growth.

### **I. LET'S EXPECT THE BEST FROM OTHERS**

A. Always try to find the good in everyone and build on that.

B. People who like others and believe they have good intentions will inspire the best. On the contrary, the leader who is the police type, always looking for the worst will find the worst and will discover that people are defensive, closed and that the doors to inner development are closing.

C. An example: In a school, a test was given to every student. The next year, teachers were given a list of the names of those who made the best grades. At the end of that year, these children (on the best list) increased their grades considerably. In reality, the list was not the best, but rather names chosen at random. The only thing that changed, in reality, was the attitude of the teachers who treated the children as if they were the best students.

D. Focus on people's strengths rather than weaknesses.

E. Discover hidden talents.

F. Jesus acted like this with his disciples:

1. Matthew and Zacchaeus Mt 9:9 and Lk 19:1-9
2. The adulterous woman John 8:1-11
3. Simon would be called Peter John 1:42
4. Saul/Paul 1 Tim 1:12-16

G. Heb 6:9

## II. LET'S KNOW PEOPLE'S NEEDS

A. Thomas Aquinas: "When you want to convert a man to your vision, go to where he is, take him by the hand and lead him to where you are. Do not stand away, shouting. Do not despise him, calling him an idiot. Don't order him to come to you. Start where he is and go from there."

B. Get to know the other person.

1. Study all your needs well.

2. Remember that all behavior has a cause.  
Try to discover this cause.

3. Find out what the person believes.

4. Ask him questions.

5. Some think that leadership is saying, "Follow me, I am strong and I know more than you." But true leadership says "Tell me about yourself."

### III. LET'S ESTABLISH HIGH STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE

A. My father: "Do a job, whether big or small, do it well or don't do it at all."

B. A teacher who taught at 5 schools each week observed the principal of each school. He identified three types:

1. A director dressed elegantly, stood aloof from students, very professional - his school was good

2. One was informal, friendly, played with children - his school was good

3. One director tried to be popular with everyone, he was relaxed - "don't come to the meeting if it's not convenient", he wasn't strict at all - his school was bad. He conveyed: "This college is not that important."

C. Strict parents have more secure children than parents who are too relaxed

D. Observations about weak leaders

1. They are afraid to correct mistakes.

The. You must immediately correct errors.

B. You must confirm the facts so as not to accuse

falsely.

w. Be specific - criticize the behavior not the motives.s d.  
Show your emotions.

2. They are afraid of making people unhappy

3. They have a need to be loved by everyone, but it is more important to have people's trust than their affection

E. People aren't inspired when we don't demand anything of them.

1. Challenges inspire. Jesus called his disciples not to comfort and leisure but to a long and arduous journey.

2. People yearn for a noble cause.

3. Leisure has little connection to happiness The happiest people are people motivated by commitments.

#### IV. WHEN TO PRAISE AND WHEN TO REBUKE

A. Suggestions:

1. Teach siblings to avoid certain behaviors and not avoid you.

2. We want them to be afraid of the consequences of their actions, not us.

3. Objectively, we teach that life is a series of choices and these choices bring certain results.

4. Let us not be vindictive, hot-headed, out of control, blackmailers

5. Bad behavior requires immediate correction  
(Mt 16)

6. Stop the correction as soon as the behavior stops. That is, the consequences, the punishment, must be as brief as possible (2 Co 2)

7. If correction isn't working, at least praise the absence of bad behavior.

8. People are changed by personal exchange in which we convey through words, tone of voice, gestures and expressions, our approval or disapproval of their behavior.

9. The sense of guilt is valid but can be abused. For example, the mother who, due to her daughter's disobedience, cries, hurts, spends days in depression, raises an unbalanced daughter. This is manipulation. Healthy guilt comes from knowing that we made mistakes and this leads us to correct ourselves. Neurotic guilt remains long after correction and incapacitates the person rather than being constructive.

10. Our aim is not to control people but to point out the consequences of their behavior and give them a choice.

## V. CREATING SELF-MOTIVATION

"More important than teaching a child is giving the child the desire to learn." How to create self-motivation within a person?

A. Encouraging people to look within until they find specific goals and dreams.

B. Helping people stick to their own life plan. The best motivators are not those with the gift of eloquence or charismatic personality who gain many followers for their projects and plans. (We are talking about disciples of Jesus - people who have the same

faith and general purpose in life.) Such leaders work as if others had to be pushed, persuaded, threatened to get into their programming. The smart motivator knows that people have certain beliefs and that they are already committed to certain directions in which they are moving. (Jesus said to John's disciples, "I will make you fishers of men.")

C. It's not like this: "You have to plant your idea in other people's heads and then make them think it was their idea." This is manipulation.

D. Care about what is important to others.

E. We want to transform people - motivate them to change - without manipulation or threats. How can you be a leader who inspires and helps and still set people free? One way is to ask:

1. How would you like to be different?

2. What does it take to make you happy?

3. In what ways do you want to change your behavior. In what areas do you want to be different?

F. People become what you encourage them to become. Not what you insist they are. (Jesus: "You are the salt of the earth and the light of the world.")

1. When we let someone define their goals, we are saying:

- The. "I care about you and what you want"

- B. "You must be thinking about the future"

- w. "We are building a team where everyone can fulfill themselves personally."

2. Advice for parents: discover your children's talents and guide them in that direction.

G. It is important that these internal goals are expressed, verbalized (the good confession).

HAW Combs : " Maintaining and improving our self-image are the motivations behind all behavior." Our task is to improve the person's self-image. If it's a negative image, let it go. Let's build on the positive images.

I. When someone is already highly motivated, we will encourage them in their plans and not discourage them.

1. When your brother is warming up with fervor in the Christian life, he should throw fuel on his fire instead of water.

The. Someone dreams, "I can do something for the Lord. I can teach a class. Do a good job. Lead the songs. Evangelize a friend. Preach the gospel. Serve on a committee. Be a missionary. "

B. If you throw water: "Who do you think you are? You will never succeed. Who gave you permission? You tried before and failed, you will fail again."

w. If you throw coal: "Good, may the Lord bless you. I'm proud of you. Let me know if I can help you. God will use you in a big way. I'll pray for you."

2. See an example of this: In 1875, a child was born who was always sickly and frail. She was late in learning to read and write and was a weak student. When she grew up, she devoted herself to difficult subjects (Hebrew) and, in music, was a genius. She played the piano very well when she was 8 years old. She entered college and earned a doctorate in philosophy, theology, and music theory. At the age of 30 he read in a magazine about missions in Africa: "While we preach the gospel to these people they are

dying of terrible diseases." He stopped his profession as a musician and entered college to study medicine, making plans to go to Africa. Friends protested: "If you need help, then raise funds. You were not called to bathe lepers with your own hands." There will always be people who discourage us but there are also people who encourage us. The man was called Albert Sweitzer. In college, he fell in love with a woman, Helen and told her : "I'm studying to be a doctor in Africa. Are you willing to spend your life with me in the jungle?" She replied "I'm going to study to be a nurse. Then you won't want to go without me." It was 1913 and they spent 50 years in Africa. Now, who motivated a man to greatness and who tried to discourage him? His friends or Miss Helen?

SAW. AN EXERCISE FOR YOU TO DO: Of course, Jesus is the best example in this work. He knew how to identify and develop the best potential of his disciples. So, read the four gospels of Jesus and identify what he said and did to help people grow. I started a list to help you get the idea. Continue the list from Matthew to John.

Mt 4:18-22 Jesus invoked the highest instincts and the noblest causes. "Follow me and I will make you a fisher of men." They responded immediately.

Mt 5-7 Taught the highest standard of morality in the world.

Mt 8:18-22 He warned openly and very early on about the difficulties and challenges. There were no surprises. He challenged them to make great personal sacrifices.

Mt 8:23-27 He immediately rebuked their lack of faith.



Mt 9:9 He saw possibilities in the most unlikely people.

Mt 9:10-13 He was always faithful to his principles, even though he was criticized, he did not turn away from those despised in society. He continued to love sinners. Who did Jesus want to impress? Men? God? No, he was just acting in character. Did he stop to think - "How will this appear to the outside?" No. He put people and their needs first.

Mt 9:35-38 He recognized the great need of the scattered flock. He felt the pain of his compassion and transmitted this compassion to his disciples.

Note: Some of these ideas were taken from the book **BRINGING OUT THE BEST IN PEOPLE** by Alan Loy McGinnis

< Mt 10:1-4 Jesus accepted the task of working with and developing the potential of all types of people. And Judas. Jesus, who knew the hearts of men, let Judas have the task of carrying the bag of money.

Now, you continue...

Note: Some of these ideas were taken from the book **BRINGING OUT THE BEST IN PEOPLE** by Alan Loy McGinnis

## **THE MINISTRY OF RESTORATION OF THE FALLEN**

Gal 6:1-5 Brothers, if anyone is caught in a transgression, you who are spiritual must restore him with gentleness. But take care, each one, lest he be tempted either. Bear each other's heavy burdens and, in this way, fulfill the law of Christ. If someone thinks they are something, when they are nothing, they deceive themselves. Everyone examine their own

acts, and then you will be able to be proud of yourself, not at the expense of others, since each one must carry his own load."

## I. THIS IS THE MINISTRY OF RESTORATION

A. In Mt 4:21, speaking of fishermen's nets, the word is translated "prepare" (NIV) or "repair" (JFA). The fishermen repaired their nets, preparing them to be useful again. The word means to reestablish, bring back, resurrect, repair.

B. Jesus' mission was not to destroy but to restore man to the image of God and to communion with God, bring him back to his rightful place, heal his wounded soul, mend his broken life and make him useful back to the Lord.

C. We see this purpose in his miracles and healings - giving sight to the blind, ears to the deaf, strength to the paralyzed, health to lepers, and reason to maniacs.

D. We also see, in the parables, that he came to restore the lost coin to its owner, the lost sheep to the shepherd, the lost son to his father. (Luke 15)

E. As disciples of Jesus, we have the same mission. Your mission is our mission. We are not here to hurt and harm but to heal, restore, connect and seek.

F. This ministry is described in Ez 34:4,16 when God defined the work of Israel's shepherds: to strengthen the weak, heal the sick, bind up the broken, bring back the lost and seek the lost.

## II. WHO NEEDS TO BE RESTORED?

A. A member of the body of Christ removed. Because he is out of place, he cannot function. He became useless

B. The sinner. He was overcome by sin

C. The weak brother. Because he is a sinner, he carries shame, a defeated spirit, a guilty conscience. If the weight is not lifted, it will be crushed.

### III. RESTORATION INSTRUMENTS

A. Brothers, members of the same family, children of the same Father. This relationship is powerful.

B. Spiritual brothers. This is the job of leaders. The weak cannot give strength to the weak. The fallen cannot lift the fallen. The lost cannot seek the lost. The power to do good lies with those who are spiritually minded.

### IV. THE RESTORATION METHOD

A. With compassion for the fallen. With a spirit of gentleness. As a doctor lovingly puts the bone back in its place. The spirit of severity, as the Pharisees had, is prohibited.

1. Ps 18:35 You also gave me the shield of your salvation, your right hand sustained me and your mercy made me great.

2. 2 Cor 10:1 I, Paul, through the meekness and goodness of Christ, appeal to you; I, who am "humble" when I am face to face with you, but "bold" when absent!

3. 2 Tim 2:24 A servant of the Lord must not quarrel, but rather be kind to everyone, able to teach, patient.

B. Taking care of yourself. Whereas you are also capable of falling (Gal 6:3; 1 Cor 10:12;). You may one day find yourself in your fallen brother's shoes.

## V. CONCLUSION

A. Think of the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10) in spiritual terms. When a man is overcome by sin, we have a responsibility to him. Not to also attack with cruelty and aggravate his wounds. Don't act indifferently. But moved with compassion, treat the wounds, applying the oil that heals and the wine that cleanses.

B. When we restore the fallen, we carry their burden and fulfill the law of Christ, which is the law of love. Christ's work was to restore man to communion with God. We were called to the same ministry.

C. Our mission is to evangelize and conserve, collect and save.

Jas 5:19 "My brothers, if any of you strays from the truth and someone brings him back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save that person's life and cover a multitude of sins. "

### **THE INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH MEMBER**

"He hath appointed some to be...pastors...to prepare the saints for the work of the ministry, that the body of Christ may be built up...that we may grow up in all things into him who is the head, Christ, from whom all the body, adjusted and united by the help of all the joints, grows and builds itself in love, as each part performs its function."

An important role of evangelists and pastors in the church is to help each member of the body find their place and prepare them to perform their service. They need to help each brother answer the question: "What is my responsibility in the church?" The answer to this question is obvious! My

My responsibility in the church is to do anything and everything the Lord gives me to do. My responsibility is according to what God gave me. Look at these passages:

Rom 12:3,6 ... have a balanced concept, according to the measure of faith that God has given you... we have different gifts, according to the grace that has been given to us...

1 Cor 16:2 ... each of you set aside an amount, according to your income, setting it aside so that when I arrive, there will be no need to make collections.

2 Cor 8:12 ... contribution is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have.

Luke 12:48 To whom much has been given, much will be required; and to whom much has been entrusted, much more will be asked.

The question then becomes: "What has God given me to do in the church?" This involves several important issues regarding the body of Christ.

#### THE CHURCH: THE BODY OF CHRIST EPHESIANS 4:16

1. "whole body" IDENTITY, DEDICATION TO THE CHURCH

2. "fitted" FITTED, DIVERSITY, EQUIPPED

3. "AND UNITED" UNITY

4. " for the assistance of 100% OF THE MEMBERS INVOLVED all together"

5. "Grows" EVANGELISM,

6. "and build yourself up SPIRITUAL GROWTH, LOVE in love "

7. "to the extent that each COOPERATION, GIFTS, RESPONSIBILITY part performs its function" INDIVIDUAL

## I. "THE WHOLE BODY" - THE IDENTITY OF THE CHURCH, OUR DEDICATION TO THE CHURCH

A. OUR IDENTITY: To understand our mission or our reason for being, we must know very well who we are.

1. We are Church - those called out (from the world, from the wrong path). We have been set apart, sanctified, and must be different from the world. We must live holy lives.
2. We are the Church of Christ, of God, people of God's exclusive property - we are His and not of others, not even of ourselves.
3. We are the Body of Christ - Christ's instrument to continue his mission on earth. We are your hands, mouth, eyes, feet, heart.
4. We are God's Family - which He created to always be with Him. We have communion with Him, with His son Jesus and with each other.
5. We are God's Spiritual House, God's dwelling, God's sanctuary - we have to maintain a sanctity worthy of his presence.
6. We are Holy and Royal Priesthood - to worship and praise our Creator.
7. We are Light of the World - called to guide everyone to the path of the Lord.

B. Knowing our identity as a member of the body of Christ, we should feel great loyalty to the church. We cannot be individualistic or selfish, as we are part of something much bigger than ourselves. There is nothing more important in our lives than this.

## II. "ADJUSTED" - WELL FITTED, IN THE DIVERSITY OF GIFTS AND TALENTS, EACH EQUIPPED TO EXERCISE THEIR FUNCTIONS

A. Gifts are functions, works or services that you, as a member of the body of Christ, perform. Gifts are not talents, although any talent or human resource can and should be used in the exercise of your gift. (Rom 12:3-

6). gifts are not personalities (patient, impulsive, affectionate. The gift of Peter and Paul was that of an apostle, even with different personalities.

B. The Lord does not call everyone to do the same thing; I mean, not everyone has the same responsibility in the church. (1 Cor 12:11,12) The Spirit gives the members of the body of Christ ministries according to the needs of the body. The Lord, being the head, knows how to coordinate the body. He will never make the whole body an eye or a foot, etc. He gives the body different types of ministries to meet the needs of the entire church. As the body needs many ministries, the church needs many ministries.

C. Not all members have the same function or gift, but every Christian has one or more gifts! You have already been given a role, a service, a job, a ministry, a responsibility in the church. It was Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, who gave it to him. Your role is up to you, personally and especially.

D. You do not earn your place in the body by your own effort; it is given by God (Jesus, through the Spirit).

E. It is right to call brothers to the service of Christ according to their gifts and talents. It is right to encourage each person to place all their talents at the Lord's disposal. But it's not right to create a guilt complex if someone isn't exercising talents they don't have or roles that weren't given to them by God.

F. Gifts are functions, which the various members are called by Jesus to exercise, in a special way. We all must serve but there are servants in the church. We must all evangelize but there are evangelists in the church We must all exercise mercy but there are Christians with this gift

We must all contribute but there are some with this gift. We should all take care of each other but there are pastors

at church.

We can be involved in many services but there are some services to which we are especially called. These are our gifts.

### III. "UNITED" - UNITY OF THE BODY

#### A. BEING MEMBERS OF THE SAME BODY, WE SHARE THE SAME PURPOSES AND MISSION

1. Preach the gospel to every creature, seek and save the lost.
2. Make disciples of Jesus in all nations
3. Do good works
4. Manifest God's wisdom, glorify God
5. Build yourself, equip, train, help every follower of Christ to be like Jesus Christ and be fruitful.
6. Be the light of the world and salt of the earth
7. Be a community of love
8. Meet the physical needs of those in need
9. Worship and praise God
10. Defend the oppressed, poor
11. Demonstrate God's Character
12. Demonstrate holiness
13. Defend God's truth, support his doctrine.
14. Fight against principalities, powers... and spiritual forces of evil
15. and more...

B. The limbs work in unity with the whole body. There is no loose limb. Church service is the spiritual activity of the saints, members of one another in the Spirit. Like a body, each member works according to its function. It is not the independent activity of an individual but the coordinated work of all the members of the body. Everyone saved in Christ is a priest (see Heb 5 to see which priests are appointed to perform functions). To be



Priest is not a title of honor (there is no "Priest Emeritus") but rather a position to hold.)

#### IV. BY THE HELP OF ALL JOINTS " -

(1 Cor 12:14-19; 28-30) 100% OF MEMBERS INVOLVED

A. A church needs to have space for all members to serve the body. The church is all brothers and sisters, including those who are considered less decorous, carrying out the functions of their spiritual ministries, each serving the Lord. It is fatal to the body to have many useless limbs. All are members of the body. Each member has its role. Each member must fulfill his service before God. Each must serve.

B. A system in which one person takes care of all must not be allowed to exist. If the hands don't work but ask the eyes to work... If the feet don't walk but ask the eyes to walk... If the ears don't hear but ask the eyes to listen... If the mouth doesn't eat but asks that the eyes eat... If the nose doesn't smell but asks the eyes to smell... That wouldn't be a body. It would be a monster.

C. In the church, each member has a ministry before God. Each must serve. All must function (Rom 12:4-8). The gifts vary according to the grace received and each one must focus their attention on their service. There must be room in the body for all members to serve. Each person needs to know before God what they can and should do, what gift the Lord has given them. As soon as he knows, he must exercise this gift or function.

D. The body shall not permit any member to neglect his duty. If the eyes do not look, the entire body is in darkness. If the feet don't walk, the entire body stops walking. This is the principle taught in the parable of the "talents" (Mt 25). Even if you have received just one "talent" you should still use it. Every member, whether receiving one, two or five, must use what he has received for the good of the

body. (The name talent is either happy or unhappy. On the one hand, it is confused with talents or abilities, natural or developed. On the other hand, it applies perfectly to the subject of gifts. Talent was money. It can be translated: "currency".

E. Too often in the church, those with five "talents" are carrying the weight of the multitude of members with one "talent." What a great weight. The direction of a church is not something that depends solely on the work of a few, but it is more a matter of us having the ability to make everyone with a "talent" manifest their gifts. The big problem in the church today comes from a "talent" hiding their "talent." If everyone with a "talent" manifested their "talents", there would be no need for so many great gifts among us. We have to mobilize those with a "talent" to exercise it.

F. The service should not place emphasis on those who are especially gifted, but rather on those who are less gifted, on those who, for men, have no value, those who only have a "talent". Often, those with 2 and 5 "talents" take care of all matters while those with 1 "talent" are left inactive. They let them learn, day by day, to do according to their ability, each one serving the Lord, no one transferring responsibility to others.

G. The whole body must learn to serve. Regarding the activities of the church, brothers and sisters must be concerned about them and be very clear about them. It doesn't matter the type of obligation. Everyone must roll up their sleeves. For example, cleaning the building where the church meets, taking care of the needy, hosting the brothers, receiving visitors, distributing bread, carrying the treasury's pocket... In the house of the Lord, no servant can excuse himself by saying that he was not given service none. Before God, all his children are servants. If children then servants. If members then have gifts, if members then ministers. If we think there is someone the Lord cannot use, do we really

we do not know the grace of God. In the church there should be no member who is marginalized. Everyone needs to get up and running.

H. Sometimes we are caught between the priestly system of Catholicism and the pastoral system of Protestantism. Among us, some take care of all the church's problems. We have to allow Christ to work and manifest his functions. Being the body of Christ, there is no shortage of work to do.

I. The principle is that opportunity + ability = responsibility. Or, in other words, I see the need + I can meet the need = I must do the job. (but it's not always that simple) (Luke 10:25-37).

## V. "GROW UP" - EVANGELISM

A. SOME METHODS OF EVANGELISM (These are just examples of a certain congregation. Everyone must seek their own methods)

1. Evangelize neighbors, family and friends in person
2. Inviting people to church worship
3. Teach the Bible in English
4. Show the slides at home: The Eternal Purpose; Jule Miller in Spanish
5. Start a Bible School, offering Bible courses to the public
6. Correspondence courses (visiting students and evangelizing them in person):

The Biblical Church

What the Bible Says

Revelations of Christ

Christianity in Action

How to Become a Christian

7. Rent biblical films and show them in public places

8. Distribute flyers

9. Distribute copies or portions of the New Testament

10. Open a medical clinic (for free) in the favela

11. Carry out campaigns in schools, entering rooms to invite people to study or take a correspondence course

12. Campaign on the streets and from house to house, offering courses or inviting people to a lecture.

13. Hold seminars for the public: We can trust the Bible From Death to Life Being Simply Christian by advertising through pamphlets, TV, radio, billboards, etc. 14. Christian Congress, inviting friends to participate 15. Neighborhood Groups, inviting people to study

16. Camps and retreats, inviting friends and family

17. Couples Meetings, inviting couples of acquaintances

18. Omnibus - going from house to house inviting people to worship every Sunday in a rented bus

19. Special days: Bible Day Friend's Day Family Day

20. Food distribution, fair for used things and clothes, for the public

21. Television program with Bible studies, Bible raffles, questions, Biblical Telecourses, Bible School on the Air

22. Sending out invitations to put in every post office box in the city.

23. Debates with religious leaders on radio and television

24. Groups of workers (choirs) from the United States to sing in the squares, distribute invitations in the streets for evening lectures.

25. Present a play with a spiritual theme and invite the audience

26. Form sports teams – football, etc and play

against teams of non-Christians to create friendships  
27. Educate and train your own children

SAW. "BUILD YOURSELF IN LOVE" - SPIRITUAL GROWTH,  
LOVE, TOLERANCE, CONSIDERATION comes when  
everyone is faithfully exercising their gifts in the spirit of  
brotherly love.

VII. "TO THE EXTENT THAT EACH PARTY PERFORMS ITS  
FUNCTION" - COOPERATION, INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY

#### A. BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF GIFTS

Apostle Shepherd Heal diseases Tongues Exhortation  
Prophet Teacher Help Wisdom Evangelist Work Miracles  
Governments Knowledge Preside Exercising Mercy

B. EXAMPLE OF A LOCAL CHURCH ORGANIZATION  
(These are just examples of a certain congregation.  
Everyone should look for their own organization)

1. Neighborhood Groups - coordinate; lead a group; teach in a group host a group; invite and pay attention to visitors; take care of kids; 2. Evangelism - coordinate; register visitors; visit orphanages and hospitals; work on campaigns; distribute leaflets; study with people; visiting old people's homes;
3. Benevolence - coordinate; distribute food; repair houses; taking people to the doctor; help the poor with domestic work
4. Finance - be treasurer; carry out audit; count the collection; do accounting; maintain files;
5. Missions - coordinate; visit other cities; run campaigns; make trips for edification; write letters; encourage missions; write to Christians in the countryside;
6. Bible School - direct; be a receptionist; to be

teacher; respond to student letters; organize the library; advertise; correct courses

7. Maintenance - coordinate; cut the grass; fix things; organize joint efforts; paint the building; tidy up salon; take care of the flowers and garden; take care of the sound system; clean the baptistery

8. Prayer - coordinate; organize vigils; dedicate yourself to prayer; plan and participate in fasting and prayers; lead prayer service

9. Training - coordinate; teach training classes

10. Building - coordinate; prepare a newspaper; preach at services; lead hymns; direct prayer; Lead the supper; distribute collection and supper; direct the collection; make warnings and readings; prepares bread and wine; take care of the hymnals;

11. Sunday School - coordinate; teach children, teenagers, young people, adults, new Christians; decorate the rooms; prepare materials; maintain materials room; prepare teaching materials.

12. Families - coordinate; plan meetings; celebrate weddings; provide prenuptial counseling

13. Camps- coordinate; cook; organize games; teach classes; make a canteen; make spiritual plays; buy food; provide transportation

14. Christian Training Center- coordinate; construction

plant vegetables and fruits; pay the bills; schedule events;

15. General Coordination - being coordinator; encourage those responsible for the areas

16. Decoration- coordinate; plant flowers in the garden; make posters and panels

17. Older Men- coordinate; Organize meetings

18. Cleaning- coordinate; buy materials; clean the building; washing clothes

19. Unification- coordinate; plan events for

- unite congregations; visit other congregations
20. Teenagers- coordinate; to teach; plan events
21. Celebrations- coordinate; prepare food; organize parties
22. Sunday Service - coordinate; call participants; schedule sermons; conduct worship for children; lead hymns; serve supper; lead prayers; make warnings; preach; prepare supper; distribute hymnals
23. Young people- coordinate; plan activities; teach classes; advise on dating and marriage
24. Escola da Vida- coordinate; teach cooking classes, sewing
25. Health - coordinate; give classes on hygiene; buy and distribute medicines
26. Women- coordinate; to teach; plan events, parties and teas; take care of the kitchen; guide women in marriage;
27. Communication- coordinate, prepare newspaper; write articles; send letters; make posters and banners
28. Children- coordinate; teach classes; take on trips; prepare teaching material; make snacks
29. Transformation- coordinate; work with addicts; work with street children; collect donations for those in need;
30. Involvement- coordinate; visit those far away; teach new converts; send letters far away

C. We should always be encouraging brothers to take initiative to do what they think Jesus is calling them to do and not be restricted by the organization. The organization should facilitate and not hinder the service of any Christian.

CONCLUSION :

What is my responsibility in the church? Is obvious! My responsibility in the church is to do anything and everything the Lord gives me to do.

What is my gift? What role did Jesus choose for me to play in the church? How will I know ? Psalm 25:12 helps me to know: "To the man that fears the Lord, He will instruct him in the way he should choose."

One important thing is to use what God gave me with dedication and for the good of the body. 1 Peter 4:10 "Serve one another according to the gift he has received as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."

Let us commit ourselves to the service of preparing brothers in the exercise of their individual ministries. Each brother and sister has a ministry. We need to help them know what it is and also equip them to perform well in their ministry.

## **HOW TO SOLVE PROBLEMS IN THE CHURCH**

### **BE THE RIGHT PERSON**

A. It's Easy! Just do like Solomon! (1 Kings 3:16ff) Two women fighting over a baby. One with reason, one without reason. Imagine the crying and emotions! The king said: "Divide the child in half!" But, do you have his courage and wisdom? Was he bluffing? Did he know human nature so well?

B. Or do like Jesus! (Luke 12:13) "tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." Jesus refused to enter the fray: "Man, who appointed me judge or arbitrator among you?" He penetrated the heart, identified evil and taught a lesson to change the way of thinking: "Be careful! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed." But, do you have the perception of Jesus? He didn't accuse but cut to the heart. Has the man transformed?

C. There are differences, conflicts and contentions that we must refuse to resolve.



Titus 3:9 "Avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, and arguments and contentions concerning the law, for these things are useless and worthless"

2 Tim 2:23 "Avoid foolish and futile controversies because you know they end in fights"

Pr 17:14 "As the dam is opened, so is the beginning of strife; give up, before there are strife." See how things are heating up!

#### D. We need wisdom:

1. To understand what causes problems and strife Jas 4:1-3 Where do strife come from? Wars and contentions come from the passions that war within a person. They come from greed and selfishness.

Pr 28:25 The covetous man stirs up contentions. Examples? desires for goods, recognition, position, power, priority, winning the argument

1 Cor 3:1-4 Jealousy and strife come from the spirit of man who is carnal and not spiritual.

2. To help the person listen and think reasonably. Pr 15:1 A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. When someone is emotionally excited, reason doesn't work and they are not prepared to even listen. So you shouldn't preach, threaten, order, judge, blame, withdraw, call names... It would be better to listen quietly, speak softly, try to open doors of understanding, show kindness...

Pr18:19 An offended brother resists more than a fortress, his contentions are the bars of a castle

Pr 26:20,21 Without wood the fire goes out; and if there is no reviling, the strife ceases.

2 Cor 10:1 I Paul, through the meekness and goodness of Christ, appeal to you; I am "humble" when I am face to face with you, but "bold" when I am absent.

E. To solve problems in the church, we need to be a certain kind of person. (This is more important than knowing certain strategies, methods, etc.)

1. Acts 6:1-7 The food distribution problem, the qualifications - men of good testimony, full of the Holy Spirit, full of wisdom. (just to distribute food? Yes, because there were problems!)

2. 2 Tim 2:24 A servant of the Lord must not quarrel, but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, patient, and with gentleness he must correct those who oppose him...

3. Tit 3:2 Do not slander anyone, be peaceful and kind and always show true gentleness towards all men

4. Col 3:12-15 clothe yourselves with deep compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience... bear with one another... forgive... loving... may the peace of Christ be the judge in your hearts...

5. Phil 2:1-14 have the same love... one spirit, one attitude, do nothing out of selfish ambition or vanity, but humbly consider others better than yourself... humble, submissive, obedient. ..no murmurings or arguments.

6. Eph 4:31 Get rid of all bitterness, indignation and anger, shouting and slander, as well as all malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as God forgave you in Christ.

7. 1 Cor 2:15 The spiritual man discerns all things, but he himself is discerned by no one. And what is the spiritual man like? Galatians 5:22 The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

F. An example: Paul to the church in Corinth. (Which church had the most problems, conflicts and contentions?)

1:2 Called them to be what they were called to be - holy, united

1:4-9 It began with pleasant words, praise, trust (and sincere). "I'm going to correct you but I love and appreciate you.

1:10-11 He didn't avoid the subject. He was direct. He identified the problem and the source of information. He left no room for gossip or vague defenses.

1:13 The solution is Christ. He was the one who died for you. You were baptized in his name.

1:22-24 He preached a message that challenged and touched both sides of the age-old problem between Jews and Gentiles.

1:26 It hit the heart of the problem - pride - and took away a reason to be proud.

2:13-3:4 He reproved the brothers for being carnal and not spiritual, identifying their actions that proved their carnality.

4:3-5 He reminded them that God will judge the value of each person's work. There is no need to think that one is better than another.

4:7 No more superiority complex.

4:14 He warned like a father to his beloved children.

4:21 He came in a spirit of love and gentleness.

5:12-13 The church has a duty to judge - the evildoers in its midst.

6:2 The church has the duty to judge - offenses between members. But note that both sides of the dispute are wrong - the one who did evil and the one who was offended. it was better to suffer harm than to shame the church among outsiders!

8:9-13 Don't let your freedom cause your weak brother to fall into sin.

9:22 Leave your rights to please others to win them to Christ.

10:24 Do not seek your own interests. He called for a life of selflessness.

10:29-33 Deny yourself for the good of all.

13:1-13 Above all, let love be.

Paul's solution boils down to: Instruct -instruct-instruct - to change people's hearts and thoughts. What is the point of trying to resolve problems between unconverted people or people who are not determined to obey and follow Jesus? He spoke out of love and with love, as a father speaks to his beloved children. He identified the heart problem behind the problems-pride, carnal thoughts, selfishness, lack of love. He pointed to Jesus crucified for our sins as the message that transforms hearts and solves problems.

G. Some suggestions: (thanks to Howard Norton, an exmissionary in Brazil)

1. Instruct the church that the true enemy in every conflict in the church is Satan. Our fight is not against flesh and blood.

2. Instruct the church that we are to use spiritual and not carnal weapons. We must always fix our eyes on the person of Jesus, imitate his attitudes and actions, not use worldly methods to win in the fight. Do not seek or win a victory, but rather peace.

3. Speak the truth in love - full of patience, kindness, humility, courtesy, selflessness.

4. Preach sermons on majestic and lofty topics with great balance. Calling brothers to a higher life. Give a vision of our great ideal and the mystery of God.

5. Model what you want the church to be. Be a servant and not a Cabinet Minister. Give yourself to people (and to God) and not to things, tasks, plans, organizations.

"Do everything with love" (1 Corinthians 16:14)

## **UNDERSTANDING PEOPLE**

### **I. BIBLICAL INSTRUCTIONS**

Mt 18:15-17 "If your brother sins against you, go and, alone with him, show him his error. If he hears you, you have won your brother. But if he does not hear you, take with you one more or two others, so that 'every question is decided by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' If he refuses to listen to them, tell the church; and if he refuses to listen to the church also, treat him as a pagan or publican.

Luke 17:3-4 "If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him. If he sins against you seven times in a day, and comes to you seven times and says, 'I repent,' forgive him."

Pr 15:1 A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

Jas 1:19 Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to anger,

Luke 12:13-14 Someone from the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." Jesus answered, "Man, who appointed me judge or arbitrator among you?"

## II. WRONG INSTRUCTIONS AND IDEAS

Rogeriano: "I understand"... "I understand..." but he doesn't advise.

Freud explains: "everything is sexual fantasy with your parents"

Psychology: "sinful behavior is just the consequence of psychological factors. I am what I am because of the environment. Sin is just a mental illness."

## III. WRONG IDEAS OF CHRISTIAN PSYCHOLOGISTS

Everything is simple, black and white, 1-2-3 ready!

The solution to every problem is to say: It's a sin, repent.

Sin is exclusively evil behavior. Find out what you are doing wrong and stop doing it.

## IV. A COMMON ILLUSION

People delude themselves into thinking that the goal of life is personal happiness and self-fulfillment. They say: "You can feel, think, do whatever you want, but it must not harm anyone." or "God wants me to be happy. Anything that stops me from that is not of God."

## V. THE TRUTH

It's not that I don't need to satisfy my needs, but that what really satisfies is obeying God. The ultimate authority to decide the course of life is the Word of God. In practical terms, the most important question is: "Who is in control of your life? Who is at the center? You or Jesus?" (Phil 1:21)

## SAW. FROM ILLUSION TO TRUTH

That is the purpose of Biblical counseling. Counseling is not mechanical (like fixing a television), nor just relationships (being friends or companions). It requires loving relationships and understanding how human beings function. Our job as counselors is to change thoughts: Instead of thinking: I want to do what pleases me; I want to fulfill myself; I want to feel good; I want to be happy, start thinking: I want to be like Christ; I always want to do God's will.

The second thought leads a person to well-being. Whoever aims to be happy will never achieve it. The goal needs to be to live pleasingly before God. Then the person's motivation becomes: "because I want to solve the problem? to be happy? or to be more like God? so I can worship Him and serve Him better" (Heb 3:15,16).

Our goal is to bring people to spiritual and psychological maturity (Col 1:28) Maturity involves: 1. immediate obedience to God and 2. long-term character growth (transformation) to be like Christ.

VII. THE FOUNDATION OF EVERYTHING IS JUSTIFICATION IN CHRIST  
God accepts me, not because of my performance but because of Jesus' performance (Titus 3:5). This leads me to growth and voluntary obedience, motivated by grace and not fear (Rom 8:1,31-39). If I don't believe this, I will seek value in people's approval, which always leads to frustration, fear, anger, anxiety! God has already accepted me! (2 Cor 5:14). Someday I will be glorified. I will be as He is. Until that day comes, I will walk the path of obedience, always growing in Christ.

## VIII. UNDERSTANDING THE PROBLEMS

If I understand how people cause problems, I have a better chance of helping solve them.

### A. PERSONAL NEEDS

1. Physical - what is necessary to maintain life (food, shelter, clothing)
2. Personal - what is necessary to maintain life.

There are two basic personal needs:

- The. Meaning (value, importance, purpose in life, fulfillment as a person)
- B. Security (love, hope, certainty that physical needs will be met tomorrow).

3. Anyone who doesn't get these dies. Whoever understands that they have value and are secure in Christ and begin to live this way in obedience will have well-being regardless of the circumstances. He has a reason to live.

4. In counseling, if I can help a person see their true needs, I can guide them to seek other methods to get what they need. 5. We will never stop needing value and security. We can let other things go if they create problems or if there is another way to satisfy true needs.

6. The difference between needs and wants:

The. We need meaning and security

B. We desire approval, beauty, money, possessions, fitness, health, recognition, success, good family, friends, faithful husband, fruitful ministry, etc.

w. If I don't have what I want, I may suffer but I won't die. I can live the abundant life without having everything I want but I cannot live without meeting needs.

B. MOTIVATION is the force that drives me to act to satisfy needs. I do things, I move, I work, I fight to be a person of value. But what do I do? In which direction am I moving? What is important to me? What things do I get involved in? The answer does not depend on your needs or mine



energy, but what I think will satisfy these needs. For example:

1. a child whose father likes sports.

2. the daughter of a quarrelsome mother

3. the father who thinks money gives security

C. BASIC BELIEF - Things I believe that lead me to choose the behavior necessary to achieve my goals. Here are some common mistakes: "I will be valuable if: I have money,

be successful,

I am approved by important people, I have good children,

never make a mistake,

I have recognition for my service, I work well."

"I will be safe if:

everyone accepts me,

I have a husband who loves me,

is not criticized,

no one rejects me."

D. BEHAVIOR THAT LEADS TO TARGETS I have the target, I believe I know how to get to the target, I decide on actions that will take me to the target.

E. TARGETS

At this point we have problems: When I don't reach the targets, frustration, anger, depression, jealousy come. I feel threatened because my needs are not met. (people kill to avoid starving).

1. A woman believes that her security depends on her husband's love. She will try everything to win and keep this love but she doesn't know how. She cooks well, takes care of her children, but neglects her appearance and doesn't welcome him when he comes home from work. Here comes trouble. The husband does not

responds to her love. Her goals are not achieved. She tries other things, reads books about sex, goes to the gym, etc. That's fine but there are 2 problems:

The. It may be impossible to win your husband's love. So how is her safety? Should they get divorced?

B. Her motivation is selfish and manipulative. She is using people to satisfy her needs.

2. The ideal would be to recognize that Christ satisfies needs. Now, serve others to help them also come closer to Christ.

F. PARTIAL AND TEMPORARY ACHIEVEMENT If you do not recognize the truth, even those who reach their target will not be realized.

John 4:13,14 - only a relationship with Christ truly satisfies us. Any other target is partial and temporary and leads sooner or later to:

G. FEELING OF EMPTY Now  
it starts all over again

## IX. SOLVING PROBLEMS

First is the diagnosis and then the treatment. In the human model, obstacles to targets lead to frustration. Obstacles are things that prevent us from achieving our goals and lead to frustration. There are three types of obstacles:

1. targets out of reach.....frustration (self-blame)
2. external circumstances.....frustration (resentment)
3. fear of failure.....frustration (anxiety) Guilt, resentment and anxiety create so many problems A. Targets out of reach lead to feelings of guilt. Like the son of a very critical father. He believed that security only came with perfection. He married a good but outspoken woman. He hates himself, feels guilty about himself when he is criticized. If she's sweet it's worse because he

He thinks he doesn't deserve the sweetness.

B. External circumstances lead to resentment. Like Israel in the desert when they wanted to kill Moses who freed them from slavery. "I could achieve my goals if it weren't for external factors. If you frustrate me in my goals, I will be angry with you.

C. Fear of failure leads to anxiety. Out of fear, the person remains indecisive and doesn't even try. That's why she already failed.

D. All of this leads the person to be neurotic, running away from things that threaten. She protects herself to be safe.

E. What is the solution to the obstacles that frustrate my plans to reach my goals?

1. Remove obstacles? No, because we live in an imperfect world full of imperfect people.
2. Blow up all obstacles? No, because it will hurt people.
3. Recognize that God's love is enough to satisfy all my needs? Yes!

X. The target of counseling in the world the target is to seek the well-being of the man who is personal happiness, and the man who decides is man. For the Christian, man's well-being is to have a good relationship with Christ.

A. Sometimes the weight of life increases and it has to increase. Someone says, "Life was easier when you weren't a Christian." What should we change in the human model? Not needs or motivation but basic belief. We avoid problems if one's basic beliefs fit with revealed divine truth. The well-adjusted person is the one who depends only on God (and what God gives) for meaning and security. Let's change what the person really believes.

B. Rom 12:2 "by the renewing of the mind,"  
not by feelings, behavior, or circumstances.

1. Christ is the reason for living: mind

2. Be a good wife: behavior

3. To please God, serve and do not manipulate your  
husband: the target

4. Whether or not she is loved by her husband, she can still  
be a happy and fulfilled person.

C. We must truly believe that Christ and the life in  
Him meets all of our needs. Do we believe what God  
promised?

Phil 19. My God will supply all your needs  
according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

Mt 6:33,34 Seek first the kingdom of God and  
his righteousness, and all these things will be  
added to you. Therefore, do not worry about  
tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about  
itself.

Phil 4:6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in  
everything, by prayer and petition, with  
thanksgiving, present your requests to God

Rom 8:31 If God is for us, who can be against  
us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave  
him up for us all, how will he not along with  
him freely give us all things? 35? Who will  
separate us from the love of Christ?...

Eph 2:10 For we are God's creation, created in  
Christ Jesus to do good works, which God  
prepared in advance for us to do.

D. Jesus died for himself (John 12:23-26. He came to serve  
and not to be served (Mt 20:28). He surrendered completely  
to the will of the Father (Mt 26: 38- 42). Jesus gave us He  
taught with his words and example that a successful life is  
not motivated by one's own will.

E. Was Jesus' life a success? What were his targets? Did he face obstacles? Did he feel resentful and aggressive because of these obstacles? How did he treat people? In John 8:1-11, Jesus faced a group of self-sufficient and aggressive people and also an adulteress. How did he treat them? He knew that his sins were driving the nails into his hands. But how did he answer them? With soft or harsh words?

F. When we fail, we become angry, indignant, self-pitying. But what's the problem? It's selfishness! Even when a person tries to be nice, they may be fooling themselves into thinking that they will be happy if they can just control the situation. James 4 identifies the root of problems between people - greed, selfishness, pride. The solution to problems comes when a person denies himself and follows the word and example of Jesus. Any other solution will be partial or temporary.

## XI. STEPS IN COUNSELING:

A. Identify the feelings that cause the problems.

B. Identify the behavior that causes problems.

C. Identify wrong thoughts or beliefs that generate these negative feelings and behaviors.

D. Instruct the person in biblical thoughts (change basic belief).

E. Obtain commitments to obey God. Suggest and plan biblical behavior.

F. Identify the positive feelings that result from change.

Note: This model of the human being was taken from the book UNDERSTANDING PEOPLE by Lawrence Crabb.

## **PRACTICE DISCIPLINE**

### **I. DISCIPLINE FOR INSTRUCTING BROTHERS**

1 John 2:1 - My little children, I write these things to you so that you do not sin. However, if anyone sins, we have an intercessor with the Father, Jesus Christ, the Just.

Titus 2:11 - 12 For the grace of God has appeared to save all men. It teaches us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions and to live sensibly, righteously, and godly in this present age.

II. DISCIPLINE TO PREVENT DISOBEDIENCE Luke 22:31-34 "Simon, Simon, Satan asked you to sift you like wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail. And when you are converted, strengthen your brothers But he replied, "I am ready to go with you to prison and to death." Jesus replied, "I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know me."

### **III. DISCIPLINE TO CORRECT MISTAKES**

Heb 12:7-9 Endure difficulties as discipline; God treats them like children. Well, what son is not disciplined by his father? If you are not disciplined, and discipline is for all children, then you are not children but bastards. Furthermore, we had human parents who disciplined us, and we respected them. How much more must we submit ourselves to the Father of spirits to live this way!

James 1:2-4 My brothers, consider it a source of great joy when you encounter trials of many kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. And perseverance must have complete action so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking in anything.

I Pe 1:6,7 In this you rejoice, even now, for a little

time, you must be grieved by every kind of trial, so that the faith you have, which is much more valuable than gold that perishes, even if refined by fire, may be proven genuine and result in praise, glory and honor, when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Mt 18:15-17 If your brother sins against you, go and, alone with him, show him his error. If he listens to you, you have won your brother. But if he will not listen to you, take one or two others with you, so that any question may be decided by the testimony of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to you, tell the church; and if he refuses to listen to the church also, treat him as a pagan or a tax collector.

2 Thess 3:6,14-15 ... stay away from every brother who lives idleness and does not follow the tradition they received from us... if anyone does not obey our word in this letter, mark him and do not be associate with him, so that he feels ashamed; however, do not consider him as an enemy, but draw attention to him as a brother.

#### IV. DISCIPLINE TO PUNISH REBELS

1 Tim 1:19,20 ... maintaining faith and a good conscience, because some, having rejected it, have made shipwreck of faith. Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I handed over to Satan, so that they may learn not to blaspheme.

Acts 5:1-11 A man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold property. He kept part of the money for himself, his wife also knowing about it; and the rest he took and laid at the feet of the apostles. Then Peter asked, "Ananias, how has Satan so filled your heart that you lie to the Holy Spirit and keep for yourself some of the money you received for the property? Didn't it belong to you? And after it was sold, the money was not in your possession? your power? What made you think of doing such a thing? You did not lie to men, but to God." Hearing this, Ananias fell and died. Great fear seized all who heard what had happened. Then the young men came, wrapped his body, carried him out and buried him. About three hours later, his

wife, not knowing what had happened. Peter asked him, "Tell me, was this the price you got for the property?" She replied: "Yes, that was it." Peter said to her, "Why have you agreed to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? Look! The feet of those who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you away too." At that very moment, she fell at his feet and died. Then the young men entered and, finding her dead, took her and buried her next to her husband. And great fear seized the entire church and all who heard about these events.

## V. DISCIPLINE TO PROTECT THE CHURCH

1 Cor 5:6-13 Don't you know that a little yeast makes the whole dough leaven? Get rid of the old yeast, so that they may be new unleavened dough, as they really are... they should not associate with anyone who, claiming to be a brother, is immoral, covetous, an idolater, a slanderer, a drunkard or a thief. You shouldn't even eat with such people.

Rom 16:17-18 ...beware of those who cause divisions and put obstacles in the way of the teaching you have received. Stay away from them. For these people are not serving Christ our Lord, but their own appetites. By smooth words and flattery they deceive the hearts of the gullible.

## **WHO ARE?**

These verses identify several categories of people in the church. Maybe there are more than you imagined. One thing that should impress us in these readings, then, is the diversity that exists within the body of Christ. In fact, each member of the body has its own gift or function.

Also, note how they are not about titles, but about services. A person's identification in the church is by the work they are doing rather than a position or title they earn.

Another interesting thing seen in this list is that it is not so easy to define the term leadership. Is everyone a leader in the sense that



should they be good examples for others? Does everyone exercise leadership in the sense of taking personal initiative in their own service? Certainly, the carnal or cultural idea of leadership does not come close to the biblical idea of leadership. The only head of the church is Christ. All members are responsible for the work of the church and the well-being of their brothers.

This list is taken from the NIV (New International Version) translation. Practically the only difference between it and the João Ferreira de Almeida (JFA) version is the use of the word "leader" instead of "guide" or "who presides".

1. ADMINISTRATOR  
1 Co 12: 28 (GOVERNMENTS - JFA) 1 Pe 4: 10 (WARDERS - JFA)

2. FOUNDATION  
1 Co 3: 11,12 (FOUNDATION -JFA)

### 3 APOSTLES

Acts 1:21- Therefore, it is necessary for us to choose one of the men who were with us all the time that the Lord Jesus lived among us, 26- Then they cast lots, and the lot fell on Matthias; thus he was added to the eleven apostles.

Acts 2:42- They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayers.

Acts 4:13 - Seeing the courage of Peter and John, and realizing that they were ordinary and uneducated men, they were amazed and recognized that they had been with Jesus.

Acts 4:33 - With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. 34 - There were no needy people among them, because those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sale 35 - and placed it at the feet of the apostles, who distributed it according to each person's need.

Acts 5:12 - The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people.

Acts 5:41- The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy of being humiliated for the sake of the Name. 42 - Every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not stop teaching and proclaiming that Jesus is the Christ.

Acts 6:1 - In those days, as the number of disciples grew, the Greek Jews among them complained about the Hebrews, because their widows were being forgotten in the daily distribution of food. 2 - Therefore, the Twelve gathered together all the disciples and said, "It is not right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God, in order to serve tables. 3 - Brothers, choose from among you seven men of good testimony, full of the Spirit and of wisdom. We will pass this task on to them 4 - and we will dedicate ourselves to prayer and the ministry of the word". 5 - This proposal pleased everyone. So they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, as well as Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicholas, a convert to Judaism, from Antioch. 6 - They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid hands on them.

Acts 8:14 - When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John there. 15 - When they arrived, they prayed that they might receive the Holy Spirit, 16 - for the Spirit had not yet had descended upon none of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 17 - Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. 18 - When Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money 19 - and said, "Give me this power also, so that whoever I lay hands on may receive the Holy Spirit."

Acts 9:15 - But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings, and before the people of Israel. 16 - I will show him how much he must suffer by my name."

Acts 9:32 - Traveling far and wide, Peter went to visit the saints who lived in Lydda.

Romans 1:1 - Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, separated for the gospel of God.

1 Corinthians 1:1 - Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and his brother Sosthenes.

Acts 2:37,

Acts 4:35

Acts 9:27

Acts 14: 14

Acts 15:9,

Rom 11: 13

1 Cor 9: 1, 2

1 Cor 12: 12, 28, 29 1

Cor 15: 7, 9

2 Cor 1:1

Gal 1:1

Eph 1:1

Eph 3:5

Eph 4:11

Col 1:1

1 Thess 2:6

1 Tim 1:1

1 Tim 2:7

2 Tim 1:1

2 Tim 1: 11

Tt 1:1

Heb 3:1

1 Pe 1:1

2 Pe 1:1

2 Pe 3:2

Jude 17

Rev 18:20

Rev 21: 14

#### 4. APOSTLES AND PRESBYTERS

Acts 15:1 - Some men went down from Judea to Antioch and taught their brothers, "If you are not circumcised

according to the custom taught by Moses, they cannot be saved." 2 - This led Paul and Barnabas to a great dispute and discussion with them. Thus, Paul and Barnabas were appointed, together with others, to go to Jerusalem to discuss this issue with the apostles and elders. 3 - The church sent them and, as they passed through Phoenicia and Samaria, they told how the Gentiles had been converted; this news made all the brothers very happy. 4 - Arriving in Jerusalem, they were well received by the church, by the apostles and the elders, to whom they reported all that God had done through them. 5 - Then some of the religious party of the Pharisees who had believed stood up and said, "We must circumcise them and require them to obey the law of Moses ". 6 - The apostles met to consider this question.

Acts 15:22 - Then the apostles and the elders, with the whole church, decided to choose some of them and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They chose Judas, called Barsabbas, and Silas, two leaders among the brothers. 23 - With them they sent the following letter: The brother apostles and elders, to the Gentile Christians who are in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia: Greetings.

Acts 16:4 - In the cities where they passed, they transmitted the decisions made by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem, so that the people obeyed them. 5 - Thus the churches were strengthened in faith and grew in number every day.

Acts 21:17 - When we arrived in Jerusalem, the brothers welcomed us with joy. 18 - The next day, Paul went with us to meet James, and all the elders were present.

Galatians 2:9 - Recognizing the grace that had been given to me, James, Peter and John, considered as pillars, extended their right hands to me and Barnabas as a sign of communion. They agreed that we should address the Gentiles, and they should address the circumcised.

## 5. APOSTLES AND PROPHETS

Ephesians 2:19 - Therefore you are no longer strangers or foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 - built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets,

with Jesus Christ as the cornerstone, 21 - in whom the whole building is fitted together and grows to become a holy sanctuary in the Lord. 22 - In him you are also being built together, to become the dwelling place of God by his Spirit.

## 6. HELPERS OF THE APOSTLES, MESSENGERS AND AGENTS

Acts 19:21 - After these things, Paul decided in the Spirit to go to Jerusalem, passing through Macedonia and Achaia. He said: "After having been there, it is also necessary for me to go and visit Rome." 22 - Then he sent two of his assistants, Timothy and Erastus, to Macedonia and remained a little longer in the Province of Asia.

2 Corinthians 8:16 - I thank God, who put the same care in Titus' heart that I have for you, 17 - for Titus not only accepted our request, but is coming to you, with great enthusiasm and on his own initiative. 18 - With him, we are sending the brother who is recommended by all the churches for his service in the gospel. 19 - Not only for this reason, but he was also chosen by the churches to accompany us when we minister this donation, which we do to honor the Lord himself and show our willingness. 20 - We want to avoid anyone criticizing us regarding our way of ministering this generous offering, 21 - because we are careful to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord, but also in the eyes of men. 22 - Furthermore, we are sending with them our brother, who has proven to us many times and in many ways that he is very dedicated, and now even more so, because of the great trust he has in you. 23 - As for Titus, he is my companion and co-worker among you; as for our brothers, they are representatives of the churches and an honor to Christ. 24 - Therefore, before the other churches, demonstrate to these brothers the proof of the love you have and the reason for the pride we have in you.

Colossians 4:7 - Tychicus will tell you all things about me. He is a beloved brother, faithful minister and co-worker in the Lord.

Philippians 2:19 - I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to them

briefly, so that I too can feel excited when I hear from you. 20 - I have no one like him, who has a sincere interest in your well-being, 21 - for everyone seeks their own interests and not those of Jesus Christ. 22-But you know that Timothy was approved, because he served with me in the work of the gospel as a son beside his father. 23 - This, therefore, is the one I hope to send, as soon as I am sure of my situation, 24 - trusting in the Lord that soon I too will be able to go. 25 - However, I think it will be necessary to send back to them Epaphroditus, my brother, co-worker and fellow fighter, messenger who

## 7. ASSISTANT

Acts 19: 22 (WHICH THEY MINISTRED TO HIM - JFA)

## 8. BISHOP

1 Peter 2:25 - For you were like sheep that went astray, but now you have turned to the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls. - JESUS

Acts 20: 28

Phil 1:1

1 Tim 3: 1, 2

Titus 1:7

## 9. BISHOP AND DEACONS

Philippians 1:1 - Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, together with the bishops and deacons.

10. HEAD Ephesians 1:22 God placed all things under his feet and appointed him as head of all things for the church. - JESUS

Eph 4:15

Eph 5:23

Col 1: 18

Col 2: 19

## 11. COLLABORATOR Rom 16: 3 (COOPERATORS - JFA)

## 12. COLUMNS

Gal 2:9

## 13. COOPERATOR

Rom 16:9

Rom 16:21

1 Cor 3:9

2 Cor 6:1

2 Cor 8: 23

Phil 2: 25

## 14. DEACON

1 Timothy 3:8 - Deacons likewise must be dignified, men of their word, not lovers of much wine or dishonest profits. 9 - They must cling to the mystery of faith with a clear conscience. 10 - They must first be tried; then, if there is nothing against them, let them act as deacons. 11 - Women should also be dignified, not slanderers, but sober and trustworthy in everything. 12 - The deacon must be the husband of one wife and govern his children and his own house well. 13 - Those who serve well will achieve an excellent position and great determination in faith in Christ Jesus.

Phil 1:1

## 15. THE TWELVE

Mt 10: 2.5

Mt 26: 14

John 20: 24

Acts 1:21

Acts 6:2

Luke 6: 13

## 16. IN CHARGE

1 Co 4: 1, 2 (WARDERS - JFA ) Tt 1: 7  
(WARDERS - JFA )

## 17. EVANGELIST

Acts 8:4 - Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. 5 - Philip descending to a city of

Samaria, there he proclaimed Christ to them.

Acts 21:8 - Leaving the next day, we arrived at Caesarea and stayed in the house of Philip the evangelist, one of the seven. 9 - He had four virgin daughters who prophesied.

Eph 4:11

2 Tim 4:5

## 18. EVANGELIST AND MINISTER

1 Timothy 4:1 - The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons. 2 - Such teachings come from hypocritical and liar men, who have a seared conscience 3 - and prohibit marriage and the consumption of foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. 4 - For everything that God created is good, and nothing should be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, 5 - for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer. 6 - If you transmit these instructions to your brothers, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, nourished with the truths of faith and the good doctrine that you have followed.

1 Timothy 4:13 - Until I come, devote yourself to public reading of the Scripture, exhortation and teaching. 14 - Do not neglect the gift given to you through a prophetic message with the laying on of hands by the priests. 15 - Be diligent in these things; Dedicate yourself entirely to them, so that everyone can see your progress. 16 - Pay close attention to your own life and doctrine, persevering in these duties, for by doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

1 Timothy 5:22 - Do not be hasty in laying hands on anyone and do not share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure.

2 Timothy 1:6 - For this reason I remind you again to keep alive the flame of the gift of God that is in you through the laying on of my hands. 7 - For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but of power, of love and of balance.



2 Timothy 4:1 - In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead by his appearing and by his kingdom, I solemnly exhort you: 2 - preach the word, be prepared in season and out of time, rebuke, correct, exhort with all patience and doctrine.

Titus 1:5 - The reason I left you in Crete was so that you could put in order what was still lacking and appoint elders in each city, as I instructed you.

## 19. INSTRUCTOR

Gal 6:6

## 20. JUDGE

1 Cor 6:4

## 21. LEADERS

Hebrews 13:7 - Remember your leaders (GUIDES - JFA), who spoke the word of God to you. Pay attention to the result of the life you have had and imitate your faith.

Hebrews 13:24 - Salute all your leaders (GUIDES - JFA) and all the saints. Those in Italy send you greetings.

Rm 12:8 (HE WHO PRESIDES - JFA) 1 Ts

5:12 (THOSE WHO PRESIDE - JFA) 1 Tm

5: 17 (GUIDE - JFA)

## 22. MASTER < br> Mt 10: 24, 25

Mt 23: 8

Mt 23: 10 ( GUIDE - JFA )

Jo 3: 2

Acts 13:1

1 Cor 12: 28, 29

Eph 4:11

1 Tim 2:7

2 Tim 1:4

Heb 5: 12

Jas 3:1

## 23. MINISTER

Rom 15:16

Col 1:7

Col 1: 23, 25

Col 4:7

1 Tim 4:6

## 24. FATHER

Mt 23:9

## 25. KEYSTONE

Acts 4:11

Eph 2:20

1 Pe 2:7

## 26. PREACHER

Acts 8:4

Rom 10: 14

1 Cor 9: 14

1 Tim 2:7

2 Tim 1: 11

2 Tim 4:2

## 27. PREACHER AND APOSTLE

1 Timothy 2:7 - For this purpose I was appointed a preacher and an apostle - I tell the truth, I do not lie - a teacher of the true faith to the Gentiles.

## 28. PRESBYTERS

Acts 11:29 - The disciples, each according to his means, decided to provide help for the brothers who lived in Judea. 30 - They did so, sending their offerings to the elders through the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

Acts 14:23 - Paul and Barnabas appointed them elders in each church; having prayed and fasted, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had trusted.

Acts 20:17 - From Miletus, Paul sent for the elders of the church of Ephesus. 28 - Take care of yourselves and the entire flock

upon which the Holy Spirit placed them as bishops, to shepherd the church of God, which He purchased with His own blood. 29 - I know that after my departure, fierce wolves will enter among you and will not spare the flock. 30 - And men will arise from among yourselves who will distort the truth, in order to attract the disciples to themselves.

1 Timothy 3:1 - This statement is trustworthy: if anyone wants to be a bishop, he wants a noble office. 2 - It is necessary, therefore, that the bishop be blameless, the husband of one wife, sober, prudent, respectable, hospitable and able to teach; 3-he must not be attached to wine, nor violent, but rather kind, peaceful and not attached to money. 4 - He must govern his own family well, having his children subject to him, with all dignity. 5-(If someone does not know how to govern their own family, how can they take care of God's church?) 6-he cannot be newly converted, lest he become arrogant and fall into the same condemnation that the devil fell into. 7-he must also have a good reputation before those outside, so that he does not fall into discredit or fall into the trap of the devil.

1 Timothy 5:17 - Elders who lead the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching, 18 - for the scripture says, "Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain," and "the worker is worthy of his wages." 19 - Do not accept an accusation against a priest if it is not supported by two or three witnesses. 20 - Those who sin must be rebuked in public, so that others will also fear.

Titus 1:6 - The priest must be blameless, the husband of one wife, and have believing children who will not be accused of licentiousness and insubordination. 7 - Because he is in charge of God's work, it is necessary for the bishop to be blameless: not proud, not quarrelsome, not addicted to wine, not violent, not greedy for dishonest gain. 8 - But be hospitable, a lover of good, sensible, just, consecrated, self-controlled 9 - and hold fast to the faithful message, as taught, so that you will be able to encourage others through sound doctrine and to refute those who oppose it.

James 5:14 - Is anyone sick among you? Call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 - And prayer made in faith will heal the sick; the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

1 Peter 5:1 - Therefore, I appeal to the elders among you, as an elder like them and a witness to the sufferings of Christ, as one who will share in the glory to be revealed: 2 - Shepherd the flock of God that is at your side. his care, watching over him; not out of obligation, but of free will, as God wants; not out of greed, but eager to serve; 3 - not as domineering over those entrusted to them, but as examples for the flock. 4 - When the Supreme Shepherd appears, you will receive the imperishable crown of glory.

Acts 15: 2, 4, 6, 22, 23

Acts 16: 4

Acts 21: 18

1 Tim 5: 17, 19

## > 29. PROPHETS

Acts 11:27 - In those days certain prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. 28 - One of them, Agabus, stood up and by the Spirit predicted that a great famine would come over the entire Roman world, which happened during the reign of Claudius.

Acts 15:32 - Judas and Silas, who were prophets, encouraged and strengthened the brothers with many words.

## 30. PROPHET

Acts 3: 22, 23

Acts 7:37

Acts 11:27

Acts 15:32

Acts 21:8, 10

1 Cor 11: 4, 5

1 Cor 12: 28, 29

1 Cor 14: 29, 32, 37

Eph 2: 20

Eph 3:5  
Eph 4:11  
Rev 10:7  
Rev 11: 18  
Rev 18: 20, 24

### 31. PROPHETS AND MASTERS

Acts 13:1 - In the church of Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon, called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen, who was brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. 2 - While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." 3 - So, after fasting and praying, they laid their hands on them and sent them away.

### 32. PRIEST

Heb 3:1  
Heb 4:14,15  
Heb 5:6,10  
Heb 6:20  
Heb 7:17,20,21,26  
Heb 8:1  
Heb 9:11  
1 Pe 2:9  
Rev 1:6  
Rev 5:10  
Rev 20:6

### 33. SERVANT

Mt 23: 11  
Acts 26: 16 ( MINISTER - JFA )  
Rm 15: 8 ( MINISTER - JFA )  
Rm 16: 1  
1 Cor 3:5  
Eph 6: 21 (MINISTER - JFA)  
Phil 1: 1  
Tt 1:1  
Jas 1:1  
2 Pe 1:1

Jd 1

Rev 1:1

Rev 22:9

### 34. WITNESSES

Luke 24:48

Acts 1:8

Acts 26: 16

1 John 1:1-4

### 35. WORKER

Rom 16:6, 12

### 36. MISCELLANEOUS

Romans 12:3 - For by the grace given to me I say to you all, let no one think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but, on the contrary, have a balanced concept, according to the measure of faith that God has given you. 4 - Just as each of us has a body with many members and these members do not all perform the same function, 5 - so in Christ we, who are many, form one body, and each member is part of all the others . 6 - We have different gifts, according to the grace given to us. If someone has the gift of prophesying, use it in proportion to your faith. 7 - If your gift is to serve, serve; if it is teaching, teach; 8 - if it is encouraging, do so; if it is to contribute, contribute generously; if it is exercising leadership, exercise it with zeal; If it is to show mercy, do it with joy.

Romans 16:1 - I recommend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant of the church in Cenchrea. 2-I ask that you receive her in the Lord, in a manner worthy of the saints, and provide her with the help she may need; because it has been of great help to many people, including me.

1 Corinthians 6:4 - Therefore, if you have questions concerning the things of this life, appoint those who are of the church as judges, even if they are the least important. 5 - I say this so as not to embarrass you. Is there not one among you who is wise enough to judge a case between brothers?

Galatians 6:1 - Brothers, if anyone is overtaken in any transgression, you who are spiritual must restore him with gentleness. But take care, each one, lest he be tempted either.

Ephesians 4:7 - And grace was given to each of us, according to the measure distributed by Christ. 8 - That is why it was said: "When he ascended on high, he led captivity captive and gave gifts to men", 9 - (What does "he ascended" mean, if not that he had also descended into the depths of the earth? 10 - He who descended is the same one who ascended above all heavens, to fill all things.) 11 - And he appointed some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12 - with the end to prepare the saints for the work of the ministry, so that the body of Christ may be built up, 13 - until we all reach the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, and reach maturity, reaching the measure of the fullness of Christ, 14 - so that we will no longer be children, carried to and fro by the waves, nor tossed here and there by every wind of doctrine and by the craftiness and craftiness of men who lead them into error. 15 - Rather, following the truth in love, let us grow up in everything into him who is the head, Christ. 16 - of whom the whole body, adjusted and united by the help of all the joints, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part performs its function.

1 Corinthians 12:4 - There are different types of gifts, but the Spirit is the same. 5 - There are different types of ministry, but the Lord is the same. 6 - There are different ways of acting, but it is the same God who effects everything in everyone. 7 - Each one, however, is given the manifestation of the Spirit, aiming for the common good. 8 - By the Spirit, to one is given the word of wisdom; to another, the word of knowledge, by the same Spirit; 9 - to another, faith, by the same Spirit; to another, gifts of healing, by the one Spirit, 10 - to another; power to work miracles; to another, prophecy; to another, discernment of spirits; to another, variety of languages; and yet another, interpretation of tongues. 11 - All these things, however, are accomplished by the same and only Spirit, and He distributes them

individually, to each one, as determined. 12 - Now, just as the body is a unity, although it has many members, and all the members, although they are many, form one body, so also with respect to Christ. 13 - For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether we were Jews or free. And we were all given to drink of one Spirit. 14 - The body is not made up of just one member, but of many. 15 - If the foot says: "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body", it does not therefore cease to be part of the body. 16 - And if the ear says: "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body", it does not therefore cease to be part of the body. 17 - If the entire body were eyes, where would hearing be? If the whole body had hearing, where would the sense of smell be? 18-Indeed, God arranged each of the members in the body according to his will. 19 - If everyone were one member, where would the body be? 20 - Thus, there are many members, but one body. 21 - The eye cannot say to the hand: "I don't need you!" Not even the head can say to the feet: "I don't need you!" 22 - On the contrary, the members of the body that seem weaker are indispensable, 23 - and the members that we think are less honorable, we treat with special honor. And the members that are indecorous in us are treated with special decorum, 24 - while those in us that are decorous need not be treated in a special way. But God structured the body to give greater honor to the members who lacked it, 25 - so that there would be no division in the body, but rather that all the members would have equal care for one another. 26 - When a member suffers, all the others suffer with him; when one member is honored, all the others rejoice with him. 27- Now, you are the body of Christ, and each of you, individually, is a member of that body. 28 - Thus, in the church, God first established apostles; secondly, prophets; thirdly, masters; then those who perform miracles and also those who have the gift of healing, those who have the gift of helping, those who have the gift of administration and those who speak tongues. 29 - Are they all apostles? Are they all prophets? Are they all masters? Do they all have the gift of performing miracles? 30 -Do they all have the gifts of healing? Do they all speak in tongues? Does everyone interpret? 31 - However, seek the best gifts with dedication.



1 Peter 4:11 - If anyone speaks, let him do so as one speaking the word of God. If anyone serves, let him do so with the strength that God provides, so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory and power forever and ever. Amen.

3 John 9 - I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to be the most important among them, does not receive us. 10-Therefore, if I go, I will draw his attention to what he is doing with his evil words against us. Not satisfied with this, he refuses to receive his brothers, prevents those who wish to do so and expels them from the church.

1 Corinthians 9:4 - Have we not the right to eat and drink? 5 - Do we not have the right to take with us a believing wife as the other apostles, the brothers of the Lord and Cephas do? 6 - Or do only Barnabas and I have the right to stop working to earn a living? 7 - Who serves as a soldier at their own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat its fruit? Who feeds a flock and does not drink its milk? 8 - I don't say this from a merely human point of view. 9 - For is it not written in the law of Moses: "Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain." Is it perhaps the oxen that God is concerned about? 10 - Isn't it certainly for our sake that he says it? Yes, this was written in our favor. Because "the plowman when he plows, and the thresher when he threshes, must do so in the hope of sharing in the harvest." 11 - If we sow spiritual things among you, would it be too much for us to reap material things from you? 12 - If others have the right to be supported by you, don't we have it even more? But we never used this right. On the contrary, we endure everything so as not to place any obstacle to the gospel of Christ. 13 - Do you not know that those who work in the temple feed on the things of the temple, and that those who serve before the altar partake of what is offered on the altar? 14 - In the same way the Lord commanded those who preach the gospel, to live by the gospel.

Galatians 6:6 - Let him who is instructed in the word share all good things with those who teach him.

1 Timothy 5:17 - Elders who lead the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching, 18 - for the scripture says, "Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain," and "the worker is worthy of his wages." 19 - Do not accept an accusation against a priest if it is not supported by two or three witnesses. 20 - Those who sin must be rebuked in public, so that others will also fear.

## **A SPIRITUAL WORK**

I Thess 5:12-22

(The instructions in this text do not just apply to leadership, but they certainly need to be part of our lives)

1. They try hard at work
2. Brothers lead
3. They advise brothers
4. Warn the idle (unsubmissive - JFA)
5. They comfort the discouraged
6. They help the weak
7. They are patient with everyone
8. They do not return evil for evil
9. They are always kind to everyone
10. They are always happy
11. They pray continually
12. They give thanks in all circumstances

13. Do not quench the Spirit

14. Do not despise prophecies

15. They try all things and keep what is good

16. They stay away from all forms of evil

(Look for other passages in the Word that describe the spiritual work of biblical leadership in the church.)

### **GOOD FEATURES**

1. Make people like you by being an easy-to-like person 1 Pe 3:8-12

2. Be generous with praise 2 Tim 1:16-18 Phil 2:19-22

3. Ask for advice from others Pr 11:14

4. Always be ready to cooperate with others Phil 2:1-5,14s

5. Never embarrass anyone 1 Co 4:14 2 Co 7:8,9

6. Pull instead of pushing John 10:4 1 Pe 5:3

7. Memorize people's names John 10:3 Rom 16:1-15

8. Keep your promises 2 Pe 3:9 Ec 5:1-6 Mt 5:33-37

9. Be cheerful and optimistic Phil 4:4-7 1 Cor 15:58

10. Do not publicize your achievements Mt 6:1-4

11. Seek to heal all wounds immediately Eph 4:26-32 Mt 5:23s; 18:15s

12. Choose capable helpers John 17:6-8,14 At 6:1-6

### 13. Be a person of action Rm 15: 18-20 At 20:24-31

THE BOSS : THE LEADER: creates fear

creates trust blames others solves

mistakes knows everything asks

questions

makes work boring makes work interesting

cares about self is interested in the group

### **SERVANTS INSTEAD OF DOMINATORS**

Christ fought against his culture - Jewish, Roman and Greek (Luke 22:24-30). A danger today is that we are contaminated by the cultural concept of leadership.

I. Leadership that predominates in the world.

#### A. In commerce, it is tainted leadership

1. Recognition and promotion is based on performance in competition with others.
2. Attention is primarily on short-term targets rather than long-term targets without immediate achievable results.

3. Success is the basis of having value among other people.

#### B. Competition

1. Survival of the strong
2. Congregations compare themselves to each other.
3. Emphasis on data (statistics) e.g. baptisms, attendance
4. Competition environment in the church about power, honor, recognition

#### C. Short-term targets:

1. To make a tree takes years. To make a tomato, it takes months.
2. Why evangelize children?
3. John 4:38 the importance of sowing and reaping. (1 Cor 3:6-9)

#### D. Success:

1. The goal is to be faithful and not to be successful. 1 Cor 4:1-6
2. Do the results justify the means?
3. Compare Jonah and Jeremiah. Which one should we imitate?

## II. Biblical Leadership

### A. Lead by service

1. Luke 22:27
2. John 13:14

### B. Lead by example.

1. The first mark of a leader is that someone is following him.
2. Phil 2:7-9: leadership of the type of Jesus cannot be understood apart from the cross.
3. Motivates others to serve. 2 Sam 23:15: this type of loyalty is not commanded.
4. By examples instead of orders or dictatorship. 1 Pe 5:2-5

### C. Lead like the good shepherd

1. The pastoral, denominational type system is wrong. (exclusive control over the life of the flock) 2. John 10: see the priorities of the good shepherd

The. Saving the sheep

B. Food, pastures (v 9; Col 1:28)

w. He is not an employee (v 11-13 the employee does not sacrifice his life)

d. Knows the sheep (v 14-15 calls them by name)

It is. Expand the flock, evangelize (v 16)

f. Maintains his relationship with the Father (v 17)

### D. THE AUTHORITY OF LEADERS IS TO BLESS RATHER THAN DOMINATE

1. Jesus refused political and military authority (John 6:15 and Mt 4)
2. John 17:2
3. Luke 22:25-27 this type of leadership cannot exist in the church

Conclusion: Let us always be vigilant to exercise the biblical type of leadership and not let it be contaminated by the culture of the world.

## NATURAL or SPIRITUAL LEADERS?

NATURAL LEADERS	SPIRITUAL LEADERS
1. Self-confident	Trust in Christ Phil 4:13
2. They know the men	They also know God 2 Tim 1:12
3. They have personal ambition	Dedicated to the work of the Lord 1 Cor 15:58
4. They make their own decisions	They seek God's will John 7:17; Eph 5:17
5. They use their methods	They use God's methods Phil 2:12,13; Heb 12:2,3
6. They like to boss others around	They lead by example 1 Pe 5:2,3 and are submissive to God Rm 12:1
7. Your goals are the honors of men	Your goals are to please God Gal 1:10; 2 Tim 2:3s
8. Motivated by personal desires	Motivated by love for people and God 1 John 4:19; 3:16; 2 Cor 12:14,15
9. They think in terms of today	They think in terms of eternity 2 Cor 4:16-5:1; Phil 3:20,21; Col 3:1,2
10. They can be successful businesspeople	Can successfully shepherd God's flock

## EXAMPLE OF FAILURE LEADERSHIP (Matthew 23)

### I. THREE ATTITUDE PROBLEMS

A. Evil example v 3

B. Ignoring people's needs v 4

C. Vainglory v 5

## II. RESULTS OF WRONG ATTITUDES

A. Discourage those who seek the kingdom v 13

B. Converting people to your image instead of being converted to the Lord

C. Confusing your interpretations with the truth of God's Word vv 16-22

D. Emphasize the details, sacrificing the larger ones vv 23-24

E. More interested in appearances than spirituality vv 25-26

F. Refusing to accept the truth about your true situation vv 27-28

## THREE ESSENTIAL THINGS

### I. DISPOSITION

#### A. ISAIAH 6

1. vv 1-4 At the time of national crisis, Isaiah saw the Lord on his throne, high and lifted up. Isaiah needed to know that the throne is never unoccupied in heaven. Whatever happens, God is always aware and in control. God is the one who reigns over the universe.

2. His reaction when he looked up and saw the glory of the Lord (v 5) "Woe is me." "I am a sinner." When we truly look up and see the glory of God, Holy, Pure, High, Righteous, Loving, then we will do as Isaiah did - "Woe is me! I am a filthy sinner." When Isaiah saw the glory of the Lord, he felt unworthy.

3. But God does not want his children to have a guilt complex, sad and dejected. He ordered purification. (vv 6,7). Isaiah despaired in the hour of crisis, he looked up and saw the glory of God, he felt that, in the presence of God, he was unworthy of receiving forgiveness, he was purified.

4. What now? It's time to act. It's time to serve. (v 8). God told Isaiah to preach his word. He told Isaiah it would be almost useless. Few people would accept it. Isaiah accepted the orders.

5. The key here is consecration. Isaiah would have accepted any commission. Preach, teach, build, clean, cultivate, serve, cook. It didn't matter. After being forgiven by the Lord, he was so joyful, so grateful that he would have done any service and been used in any way by the One who purified him.

B. When we consecrate ourselves completely to the Lord, all of our service to Him will be meaningful, whether it is caring for a sick person in the hospital or preaching from a pulpit. Any service a person does is significant and important when he is consecrated to the Lord.

C. We need to learn to pray like Isaiah: with our hand raised as a volunteer for needed service. "Lord, send someone to preach to the lost." "Lord, give us strong families, may society be strong." "Lord, help those in need." "Lord, bless our country with peace and justice." "Lord, send someone to teach Sunday School." "Lord, send someone to visit the brother away from the church." "Sir, send someone to sing more fervently." "Sir, send someone to speak to that visitor at the meeting today." "Sir, send someone to clean the tables after the meal." "Sir, send someone to write to the couple at church



who moved to another city." "Lord, send someone to be an example in prayer. - Here I am, send me!"

D. Example of disposition: Philip Acts 8 An angel said to Philip "Go south to the desert road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza" So Philip left. ...The Spirit said to Philip, "Approach that chariot and follow it" and Philip ran to the chariot...God said get up, Philip got up...God said go and Philip went...God I said run and Filipe ran... this is willingness.

E. But willingness goes hand in hand with initiative

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## II. INITIATIVE

A. God was not always telling everything to do, every word to speak. So when Philip got to the carriage, it's like God said, okay Philip, it's your turn.

- apply. Filipe asked - "do you understand what you are reading?" He took initiative and began to evangelize the eunuch. And to advance a little - the 3rd characteristic - knowledge of the word - Philip started where the eunuch was reading and taught about Jesus. I believe Philip did not take a Bible with him, he had no outline of Bible studies in his hand, no slides of the eternal purpose - but he knew the Scriptures. Knowledge enabled him to reach out to a stranger and begin where the stranger was in terms of knowledge and need and apply the Word. Disposition -Initiative-Knowledge of the Word-three essential things for the worker in his service.

B. Disposition and initiative go hand in hand - Paul and Barnabas. Acts 13:1-3 God said "Go" and they went - without question, without delay, without questions, without first agreeing on the terms, the deadline, the support. totally willing. Then, Acts 15:36, Paul said to Barnabas "Let us return to

visit our brothers in all the cities where we preach the Word of the Lord to see how they are doing." This is initiative. Already committed to the service of the Lord, caring about the work. Now, our eyes are always open to see a need, an opportunity to help, seeing the opportunity, taking the initiative to work, not always waiting for someone to give the orders.

C. We are stewards. God commissioned us to take care of his things. Now we feel responsible. Now we are in the place of the Lord Himself and we always need to be thinking - what should I do. How can I help. As in the parable of the talents. Servants were administrators (stewards) to whom the master entrusted his goods. Now their master waited for each servant to take initiative. They met their boss and knew he wanted their money invested. But he did not give a detailed list of all his actions. He said, you are in my place, taking care of my things. Take care of them as I would.

D. So with us. Every day, with every person, in every situation, we need to always be asking ourselves - "What does Jesus want me to do?" and do it! We've already received the orders. We are already workers. He has already entrusted us with his assets. We have to feel responsible and take the initiative to work.

E. In the church, each member has a ministry before God. Each member must serve. All members must function (Rom 12:4-8). Gifts vary depending on the grace received. Those who serve must focus their attention on their service. There must be room in the body for all members to serve. Each person needs to know before God what they can and should do, what gift the Lord has given them. As soon as he knows, he must exercise this gift or function.

### III. KNOWLEDGE

A. A 3rd essential characteristic is knowledge of the Word.

B. Some are putting knowledge in second place. They think that psychology and human wisdom have better answers to humanity's questions. The reasoning is that the Bible is very beautiful and serves to encourage normal people without problems, but people with serious problems need professional psychology or psychiatry. There is a movement that wants to prohibit the church from offering biblical counseling to disturbed people. A church has already been sued because it gave biblical advice to a person who wanted to commit suicide.

C. Even some "Christian" counselors feel that the Bible does not have sufficient answers to our deepest emotional and spiritual needs.

D. But if psychology is the study of the soul, then the Bible is the manual for working with the soul. Nothing is so complete on every spiritual subject as the Bible. It leads a person to transform into the image of Jesus Christ. Jesus responded in a perfect and holy way to every temptation, tribulation and trauma in life. These were more severe than anything we faced. Therefore it is obvious that a perfect victory over all the difficulties of life must lie in being like Christ. No psychology method surpasses the example of Jesus.

E. But today, the traditional solutions of Christian living and Christian counseling - The Holy Scriptures, the Holy Spirit, Christ, prayer, grace. are despised.

F. What does God think of counselors who say they represent Him but only use human wisdom Job 12:17-20; 24-25

G. Jesus is the WONDERFUL COUNSELOR Is 9:6

H. Ps 19:7-11 "The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul. The witness of the LORD is faithful and gives wisdom to the simple. The precepts of the LORD are right and make the heart glad. The commandment of the LORD is pure and enlightens the eyes. The fear of the Lord is pure and endures forever. The judgments of the Lord are true and all equally righteous. They are more desirable than gold, more than much refined gold. And they are sweeter than honey and distill from the honeycombs. Furthermore, by them your servant is admonished; in keeping them there is great reward."

I. 2 Tim 3:16,17 All scripture is inspired by God and useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for all things. good work.

J. Where can we find answers to life's questions and problems? God has not left us without sufficient resources. Perfect wisdom is available to us through his word. Consolation, security, understanding, and power are ours through brothers who know this word.

## K. THE PERFECT SUFFICIENCY OF THE BIBLE

1. The Bible is an entirely sufficient guide in matters of faith and practice.

2. The Bible calls everyone to be sufficient. 2 Tim 3:16-17; 2 Pe 1:3.

3. Instructs man in all relationships.

The. Like a child. Eph 6:1-3.

B. As a husband or wife. Eph 5:22-23.

w. As parents. Eph 6:4.

d. As citizens. Titus 3:1.

It is. As a stranger to the Kingdom of God. John 3:3-5.

f. As a Christian. Eph 4:1-6.

g. As boss and employee. Eph 6:5-9.

H. As an elderly person. Titus 2:2-4.

i. As a young man. Titus 2:4-8.

#### 4. Meets every man's needs.

The. The man is spiritually sick. The Bible reveals to us the Savior and Great Physician. Mt 1:21; 9:12.

B. Man is an intelligent being: The Bible finds its need to instruct him in righteousness. 2 Tim 3:16-17.

w. Man is a worshiping being: The Bible meets this need by teaching him how to worship in an acceptable way.

#### 5. It has the message for man's state of mind.

The. When afflicted, the Bible gives us comfort. 1 Thes 4:18.

B. When happy, she joins us. 1 Thess 5:16.

w. When discouraged, it gives us courage. Gal 6:9.

d. When we are weak, it gives us strength. Eph 6:10; Ps. 46.

#### 6. Reveals the complete will of God.

The. The promise of Christ. John 14:26; 16:13.

B. The faith definitively entrusted to the saints. Jude 3.

w. It reveals the whole truth, not just some truths.

#### 7. It produces wonderful results in man's life.

The. The Word is extremely and infinitely powerful. Rom 1:16; 1 Cor 1:18; Heb 1:3; 4:12. B. The Bible can have effects on men's lives.

i. Salvation. 1 Cor 15:1-4.

ii. Purification. John 15:3.

iii. Sanctification. John 17:17.

iv. Release. John 8:32; Jas 1:25; 2:12.

v. Conviction. Acts 2:37; Rom 3:20; A.  
18:28; Titus 1:9.

saw. Conversion. Ps 19:7.

viii. Life. Ps 119:50; John 6:63; Phil  
2:16.

viii. Knowledge. Eph 3:5; Ps  
119:130.

ix. New Birth. Jas 1:18; 1 Cor  
4:15.

x. Reconciliation. 2 Cor 5:19-20.

8. Provides everything we need for a  
successful life.

The. The Bible is your food, feeding  
your soul.

1Pe 2:1-3; 1Co 3:1-3; Heb 5:12-13; Mt4:4;  
5:6; Ps19:8-10.

B. It is your mirror, reflecting every sin that  
stains your character. Jas 1:22-25.

w. It is his lamp and light, guiding him to  
Christ, illuminating divine things. Clearing  
the path you should travel. Ps 119:105;  
130; 2 Cor 4:3-6.

d. It is his sword with which he fights a  
victorious battle against Satan and sin.  
Eph 6:17; Heb 4:12;  
Acts 2:38-41; 7:54.

It is. It is a hammer, breaking your hard  
heart, for the submission of God's will.  
Jer 23:29; Mt 16:24.

f. It is fire, burning the impurities of sin  
and refining and purifying its holy  
virtues and qualities. Jer 23:29; 20:9.

9. Refutes Catholicism, communism,  
denominationalism, materialism or any other  
ism.

10. More than being the truth:

The. The Bible is divine.

i. No other book in the world  
can make so many claims.

- ii. One of the internal evidences of biblical divinity.
- B. There was no subsequent revelation - The apostles were guided into the truth.
- w. There was no interpolation.
  - i. Changing the Bible is a serious offense. Rev 22:18-19; Dt 4:2.
  - ii. To do so is to pervert the Bible. Gal 1:6-9.
- d. The Bible must be read to verify and understand the meaning of life.
  - i. It is the complete and final revelation of God to us
  - ii. The Scriptures have provided us. 2 Tim 3:16-17
  - iii. In it we understand the meaning of life. John 14:6.
  - iv. We must study the Word. 2 Tim 2:15; 3:16-17.

It is. Let us thank God for His all-sufficient Word.

f. Let's: Read to be wise. Believe to be saved. Practice to be saints. g. Let Her fill our memory, govern our hearts, guide our feet.

H. It is by Her that we will be judged. John 12:48; Rom 2:2; 2:16; Jas 2:12.

(This emphasis on knowledge of the Word and its importance is due to the fact that our main tool in the service of shepherding the church is the Word itself.)

### **THE AUTHORITY OF THE CHURCH**

I am amazed at the authority God has given the church. Mt 18:18-20. What we do here on earth, God honors there

heaven - whether in discipline or prayer. My first thought: Such authority is dangerous in the hands of the wrong people. "Total power corrupts completely." And there has been a lot of corruption.

In history, in the name of God, there were tortures and murders. In the church, there are people who seem to enjoy power or control over others too much. Of course, they always justify themselves: "It's for your good", or "I'm just doing what's right". But it seems they like having authority too much. Only God knows the hearts of human beings.

God (through the Spirit and John in 3rd John) left Diotrophes' heart exposed. He loved the preeminence. If the workers were not approved by him, no one could receive them. John even wrote a letter to the church but Diotrophes threw it away.

All of this makes us afraid of having recognized leadership in the church. The fear of needing to submit to someone who might abuse their position or authority. In a past ELICAMP, I already saw this, in the fear of appointing pastors, presbyters, bishops in the church. The fear is of giving authority to someone. Regarding this, I have a few thoughts:

1. God wants it and so we must do it. We need to formulate plans to begin training, educating, preparing, choosing, and appointing pastors for the congregation. We just need to trust the Lord and try to do things as He has commanded.

2. This authority, which can be dangerous in the wrong hands and people, is already in the hands of the church. This context is not just Peter or the apostles but the church. The church already has the power to turn on and off, to alter human history, to stop and make the rain fall, to elect and remove kings, governors and presidents. We already have the power. We need to be using this power. We need to assume our role in the world. We need to be praying more.

3. It becomes evident why the first quality of a Christian is humility. Power or authority can fill a person's head. A country's Finance Minister confessed this recently. The person



begins to think she is something she is not. We see this in the church at Corinth with the gifts. Some thought they were superior because they were empowered by the Spirit. They forgot where power came from and that power was to serve and not dominate or exalt oneself.

A man is not qualified to be an elder if he does not have humility. Paul, in 1 Timothy 3:6, says that a new convert is not qualified because he can boast as Satan did. But neither is a person qualified to be a Christian without humility. Mt 5:3 : "Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Jas 4:6 : "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Only a humble person is capable of receiving so much power and authority and not being corrupted. See the person of Jesus. He received all authority but never stopped being a servant to others.

4. But God did not deliver the world and the church into the hands of unprincipled men. This passage assumes agreement between the decisions made by the church here on earth and God in heaven, in discipline and prayer. Note the tense of the verbs carefully: "Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." When the church exercises discipline in the manner ordained by God, then the church will agree perfectly with what God has already decided in heaven.

One time, a sister got mad at me. She had stopped attending meetings for a long time. I visited and asked if she still wanted to be a member of the congregation here. She replied that only Jesus could expel a member of the church. She didn't understand what I meant (if she doesn't join, she isn't part of the congregation) but she was right. Only Jesus takes someone out of the church. Better yet, the person withdraws himself.

John 6:37: "Everyone the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never reject." It was not Jesus who rejected Judas. It was Judas who rejected Jesus. It is not Jesus who rejects the brother who refuses to repent of his sin. He is the brother who rejects Jesus. It is not the church that disconnects the so-called brother who lives in the practice of sin. He is the man who rejected the truth, who rejected Jesus and

who rejected the church when he decided to remain in sin. Then Jesus recognizes his decision. and says "you can't walk both ways. You can't serve two masters. The church recognizes the decision and says "you can't walk both ways. You cannot serve two masters."

5. The church also has authority in prayer. Is there power in prayer? Of course yes, and a lot. What we ask in prayer in the name of Jesus will be done. Should we think long and hard before gathering 2 or 3 in the name of Jesus to ask God for something? Of course! Does God leave us free to use this power in any way, for good or for evil? No. Read 1 John 5 . The conclusion is that God, through Jesus, made us his companions, partners and collaborators in governing the world and the church.

IN CONCLUSION, remember that everything we are doing in church leadership is being done in the presence of our Lord Jesus. Let us be humble in his presence!

## **SELF-ASSESSMENT FOR LEADERS**

\_\_\_\_Have you ever eliminated a bad habit from your character? Whoever wants to lead others must discipline himself.

\_\_\_\_Do you control yourself when things go wrong? The leader who loses self-control in difficult circumstances loses respect and trust. He must be calm during crises, flexible in adversity and disappointment.

\_\_\_\_Do you think independently? Although he uses other people's thoughts to the maximum, the leader cannot allow others to think for him, or make decisions in his place.

\_\_\_\_Are you able to take criticism objectively and stand your ground? Do you know how to transform them into benefits? A humble person can derive benefit from petty and even malicious criticism.

\_\_\_\_Are you able to secure cooperation and earn the respect and trust of others?

\_\_\_\_Do you have the ability to maintain discipline, without having to resort to a "show" of authority? True leadership is an internal quality of spirit that requires serenity, never an external show of strength.

\_\_\_\_Are you worthy to receive the blessedness given to peacemakers? It is much easier to maintain peace than to restore peace when it has been broken. An important function of leadership is reconciliation - the ability to discover common ground between different points of view and induce both parties to accept it.

\_\_\_\_Do you know how to induce people to happily do something legitimate that they normally wouldn't want to do?

\_\_\_\_Are you comfortable in the presence of superiors or strangers?

\_\_\_\_Are you able to accept opposition to your point of view, or your decision, without considering it a personal affront and without reacting, therefore, as if affronted? Leaders should expect opposition and should never take offense when it occurs.

\_\_\_\_Do you find it easy to make and keep friends? Your circle of loyal friends is an index of the quality and strength of your leadership.

\_\_\_\_Do you depend unduly on the praise or approval of others? Are you able to maintain a firm attitude in the face of disapproval, and even temporary loss of trust?

\_\_\_\_Are your siblings comfortable in your presence? The leader must convey understanding, sympathy and friendship, which will put others at ease.

\_\_\_\_Are you really interested in people? In people of all types? Or are you prejudiced against some people? Per

example, racial prejudice? An antisocial person rarely becomes a good leader.

\_\_\_\_Do you have tact? Can you anticipate the likely effect of a statement before you say it?

\_\_\_\_Do you have willpower? Is it constant? No leader will maintain his position for long if he is wavering.

\_\_\_\_Do you harbor resentment, or easily forget insults directed at you?

\_\_\_\_Are you reasonably optimistic? Pessimism is not a leader's attribute.

\_\_\_\_Are you dominated by an overwhelming passion, like that of Paul, who said, "One thing I do"? Such a unique motivation will focus the person's energies, and all his strength, towards the desired objective.

\_\_\_\_Do you like taking responsibility?

## **A PLAN FOR CHURCH REVIVAL**

The church needs a revival. This does not mean that we are dead, nor lukewarm, but the humble spirit should always make us recognize that there is a lot of room for growth and improvement. The nature of the Christian life demands daily renewal. We must be constantly renewing and rededicating ourselves to Him. In this revival of the church, the leadership must certainly lead. I mean, we must be at the forefront of setting good examples. But now, think a little about how. How can we lead the church so that it is always renewing and restoring itself? Consider this:

Life comes from the Holy Spirit and not from human efforts. Because of this, any revival plan must be something that is always moving us closer to God. Instead of developing church growth strategies, let's let the

Spirit do this. This does not mean that we will not do anything, but that we will dedicate ourselves to spiritual activities and wait for the Spirit to guide us in His directions. Remember what He did with Philip (Acts 8), with the church in Antioch (Acts 13), and with Paul (Acts 16), etc.

Also remember that Jesus is the head of the church. He is the one who directs it and He is present with us today in as real a way as He was with the apostles 3 1/2 years ago. He is present with us through His Spirit (read John 14).

Let's ask God to reveal to us or any worker what we should do at the right time. This does not mean disorganization. We must continue with the division into the various areas, for example, because the body functions in an organized and coordinated manner, but let us recognize that organization does not create spiritual revival. Disorganization and mess can hinder revival but life comes from the Holy Spirit of God. The plan, then, for church revival is

1. Praise
2. Prayer
3. Obedience
4. Involvement
5. Evangelism
6. Reading and studying the Word of God
7. Love

Let's dedicate ourselves to leading the church in these areas, being good examples, good workers and good teachers, in that order. We will always look for ways to get the entire church to be active in these spiritual activities.