

Devoted to Biblical Leadership II

Each of us needs to know how healthy leadership looks like and how healthy leadership responds to challenges. We all need models for how we lead in our homes, our schools, and workplaces.



What are the principles of healthy biblical leadership?

Acts 6:1-7

In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith

The New International Version. (2011). (Ac 6:1-7). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

With Growth Comes Growing Pains

As disciples were increasing, needs were increasing. Challenges would constantly present themselves as The Way grew. Complexity breeds as growth increases.



Every challenge, gap, and need can be met with wisdom. These wisdom principles can be applied to your own leadership in every sphere and circle you're a part of.

In our specific case study, the distribution of finances and needs for whatever reason overlooked the Greek Jews. So the complaint went to leadership and the early church leaders demonstrated some biblical principles:

- They leaned into the problem and listened to the complaint
- They listened with an ear to solve the problem.

The best thing you can do to people around you — your marriage, your children, your roommates, your classmates, your coworkers — is to listen. Slow down. Understand the problem instead of overlooking their needs.

Is Serving Bad? Nope!

"It is not right to give up preaching the word of God in order to serve tables."

In order for them to be faithful to the primary thing God called them to do, they acknowledged their limitations and delegated the responsibility and raise up more leaders.

They recognized they were not Jesus; they can't counsel, preach, evangelize, and meet the practical needs of everyone.

Raising up other leaders was in fact part of their responsibility in making disciples and evangelizing. Instead of the church leaders over-functioning, they gave ministry over to others who were qualified and capable of doing that.

Two Ditches

1. **Over-functioning:** The apostles were faced with overfunctioning in this moment. This is the temptation to keep adding to our plate, putting more weight of the world on our shoulders that can start to crush our internal lives. We spin too many plates and live with anxiety of dropping them or guilt from already dropping them.
2. **Under-functioning:** Seeing the need and talking ourselves out of it and saying, "maybe someone else will do it."

We can easily fall into any of those two ditches on any given day, especially if we don't know how to drive in the middle of the road.

The Over-Functioning SuperPerson Syndrome

This is the idea that someone has to do everything perfectly to do all the things.

This myth is perpetuated in our culture everywhere.

"Don't lead unless you're going to do it perfectly. If you don't do it well, don't do it at all." — The Armchair Quarterback, *The Myth of the SuperPerson*.



Biblical leadership says that this is not all up to us. We reject this myth as untenable and unbiblical. We break agreement with Superman & Superwoman syndrome.

Giving Ministry Away

By delegating the ministry to seven other lay leaders, they were developing more people to a position of leadership. The weight was spread out over seven people.

They were doing church as a team. They assessed the situation and decided that seven people were needed to get the job done.

This is where many biblical scholars posit that the ministry of deacons began to emerge. This function of the church has been present to the church today. While men were chosen in this context, Romans and 1 Tim 3 show that men and women served as deacons to meet practical needs.

The Result of This Decision

As the delegation and teams developed, the word of God spread rapidly.

What would happen if you became a listening leader, what would you see in your family?

What would happen if you employed this wisdom where you work?

Breaking Agreement

This super-person syndrome is how many churches manifest biblical leadership, but if we look at the text, we do not see an übermensch mentality, but doing

church as a team to meet needs and solve problems.



As of right now in March 2021, we are seeking to do church as a team. Our directors and leaders have already asked some of you and will ask more in the future to work together and meet the practical needs of our church family and our community.

Most Christians who walk with Jesus can do the ministry of the apostles. You would have most likely been selected to serve on the Apostolic Alms team. Some of you are even spiritually gifted to do this. **Well done!** 🙌🙌🙌

ENCS, you are full of wisdom and the Spirit! As we move forward, we are excited to see teams form and develop to change lives that will change the world. In order to do this, we have to break agreement with the super-person syndrome.

We will make mistakes. If the lie that, "*If I can't do it perfectly, I shouldn't do it at all*," is at work in your mind, you have the chance to break away from that. God doesn't say that about you. You can repent and embrace the Holy Spirit's truth of freedom and safety.

We want a culture of freedom and safety to make mistakes. We take responsibility for the things God has given us. We want to walk at pace with Jesus, neither over-functioning nor under-functioning. We can love God and others by doing this.

Make mistakes! Move things forward! Learn new solutions for new problems. We never learn without making mistakes. You are safe to do that here.