

Devotion To Biblical Leadership



Filling the devastated the places & the universe with his presence.

Ephesians 4:1-16

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says:

“When he ascended on high,
he took many captives
and gave gifts to his people.”

(What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

The New International Version. (2011). (Eph 4:1–16). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

How can we as Jesus' church become oaks of righteousness?

His power in us gives us the power to be his light and glory in the church so that we can actually live a life that reflects who God is.

It starts with vision: living in unity and reflecting God's glory. Then this passage gets into the nitty gritty of how we live this out.

The Gifts are Leaders

1. Apostles
2. Prophets
3. Evangelists
4. Pastors
5. Teachers

These leaders were trusted and used for building up the church. One of the practices of the early church was their devotion to **Biblical Leadership**.

When Christ ascended, he gave biblical leaders to his church as a gift.



People are uncomfortable with this because these gifted leaders who are gifts to us are yet imperfect.

We see this behavior in the early church disciples jockeying for position, wrestling with pride and arrogance, entitlement, and wrestling with insecurity and timidity.

God's plan however was to always give the church imperfect, yet trustworthy leaders.

We often get nervous about this because the leaders that we see around us, especially in these recent years, it seems that political and religious leaders are either dropping like flies or destroying the world around them.

Yet there are guardrails that God has given us to help restore our trust in good leadership.

God's Goal in Imperfect Leaders

There is a difference between imperfect leaders and leaders who do evil things. Everyone is imperfect, but there is a clear growth track of spiritual maturity identifiable in everyone. It is like seeing a baby grow into an adult.

Parents are imperfect leaders for their children, and God still gives children to imperfect people.

And so when we see leaders, there is a clear spiritual growth track that we can use to distinguish between imperfect leaders and predator leaders. Just like like imperfect parents, God gives imperfect leaders, and those are the ones that we can trust.



You are equipped to serve, and the leaders are the equippers. The pastor's pulpit is not a primarily a place for ministry, but a place for equipping.

The pastors equip you to become oaks of righteousness so that we can go out and share the same knowledge and passion for the word of God. We are helping each other grow in unity and knowledge.

We are to equip for ministry, unity, and maturity. Rooted and grounded, attained to the whole measure of Jesus.

| How do we trust and follow imperfect leaders?

Guardrails

Help us trust and grow.

Guardrail 1: "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace"

Guardrail 2: "...speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."

The same way we grow is the same way we trust.

Who speaks the truth in love? The pastors and prophets but also the entire body. We are all held accountable to it. We should not through out truth nor to use it as a bat to hit others with it, but to speak it in love.



Are our leaders holding to these guardrails, and when we speak to them, what is their response? Can leaders listen to others speak gospel truth to them? Can leaders receive from others? Speaking truth in love goes both ways.

Are leaders leading with truth in love?

What do we do when we miss the mark?

Matthew 18 prescribes us to *first* go to the one who wronged us 1:1 to speak truth and love and grow in unity. Emotionally healthy truth is way to drive within these guardrails.

- This takes courage and grace to be able to do this.
- It is never okay to speak truth without love; it is a violation of God's character and nature.
- It is never okay to be loving without being truthful; it is also a violation of God's character and nature.

We as Every Nation Church Seattle are committed to these principles of emotional health.

These are principles for your own leadership in your own life, whether at work or in relationships, with children, with anyone.



Kindness, not harshness, is what leads people to repentance.

Do leaders speak and rebuke with grace? Do they demonstrate humility? Do they treat you with respect and dignity? If you answer yes to those questions, they are ones that you can trust.

What do you do when your leader misses the mark?

- Matthew 18 has a clear prescription: Go 1:1 privately and ask them questions about why they did or said what they did. We have emotionally healthy tools to give you the right verbiage for this.

How Do We Grow?

In biblical leadership, we grow when we receive from each other gifts, either leaders, other people, and interact with that in a way that is loving and truthful, holding to God's truth, and using emotionally healthy skills.

All of your leaders will not fit in certain categories all the time; we have to be gracious with leaders and with each other during the time that they are in.

Are you willing to receive God's gifts to you in the leaders he has given you? Are you willing to grow in the way Paul says that we actually grow?

Are you willing to speak truth in love to each other and your leaders?

Are you willing to welcome truth in love spoken to you?

Are we willing to do this and grow together?

This is a we thing; this is how we grow. The same way we grow is the same way we trust.

Can you imagine a church that becomes oaks of righteousness in this way? If we commit ourselves to these kinds of practices, we'll become the oaks of righteousness planted by streams of living water, becoming a source of life for those around us.