

ARMED FOR WAR Discipleship Course

SECTION 7 – The Attributes of a Leader

Lesson 28 - Attribute of a Leader Part 4

1 Timothy 3:2-7 KJV *A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;*

3Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;

4One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;

5(For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)

6Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.

7Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

Attribute 10: patient.

Ecclesiastes 7:8 *The end of a thing is better than its beginning;*

The patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.

Romans 2:7 KJV *To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:*

1 Thessalonians 5:14 KJV *Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men.*

2 Thessalonians 3:5 KJV *And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.*

James 5:7-8 KJV *Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. 8Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.*

Romans 5:3-4 KJV *And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;*

4And patience, experience; and experience, hope:

A favorite phrase: Lord give me patience, and give it to me right now! It's interesting, that here in Romans it says that tribulation worketh patience. When you're praying for patience you will get tribulation. Tribulation worketh patience.

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There is a quality of patience that we need. How often we run ahead of God. We live in such a microwave mentality society that seeks instant reward. You know People just assume they can pray one day, and the next day get the answer they are looking for. They don't have any patience.

One of the things that has happened as I've grown as a leader, is I've become more patient. I've learned to not be in a rush. If God speaks it, God is going to bring it to pass. Patiently wait on God, because God will bring it to pass. We are also to be patient with other people; letting God work on them. Sometimes we kill people by trying to make them all perfect immediately. We need to be patient, not justifying sin, not giving room or a place for it, but patiently knowing that God is working in and through them.

Romans 15:4 *For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.*

Hebrews 10:36 *For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:*

How does patience relate to spiritual breakthrough?

The key to spiritual breakthrough is timing, and we need to learn how to not only move the moment God speaks, but we also better know how to be patient until He speaks.

I have made more errors in my Christian experience and my ministry where I did not wait for God to come through, where I did not wait for God to speak. I wasted more time trying to make it happen instead of patiently waiting on the Lord.

Attribute 11: Not a brawler.

The phrase “not a brawler” literally comes from one word and means one who is teachable, not in controversy with others.

This is similar to the attribute of not a striker, but also that a leader should be one who is not involved in physical confrontation. Don't be beating people up.

Attribute 12: Not covetous.

That kind of goes along with the attribute of not being greedy for filthy lucre.

Exodus 20:17 *You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's.*

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Don't be coveting something anyone else has. We see this all the time today. When we deal with ministers we are also dealing with leaders. Many pastors are completely discontent in their churches right now because they look at television ministries and they covet what those guys have. They are desiring their people, they're desiring their money, they're desiring their power, they're desiring their stuff. They are coveting. When they see a famous minister getting older they start asking who his mantle will be passed on to, and they start coveting it. They don't really want the mantle. What they want is his ministry, influence and power. They're coveting what these guys have. But God says true leaders are not to covet. True leaders have to focus on the things of God and the things above.

Matthew 6:19-21 *Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

Your treasure doesn't follow your heart; your heart follows your treasure.

People always think that if their hearts are here then their money will follow. Not so. If your money is there, your treasure in this case, then your heart will be there. Your heart follows your treasure; where your treasure is there your heart will be also.

If you're focusing on storing up treasures in heaven, if you're not trying to gather fame and fortune and recognition and popularity and all those things for down here, but you're trying to get jewels, treasures, and rewards in heaven, then God says that's where your heart will be. If you're spending your time and energy trying to get the stuff down here, God says that's where your heart is.

What is a true test of where your heart is?

[The true test of where your heart is, is to see where you are putting your treasure.](#)

Attribute 13: Rules his own house well.

I can't tell you how many preachers I know that their families are a wreck and their marriages are a mess. You'd almost rather go into a heathen's home than some of these preacher's homes. Their kids are rebellious, and they are out there preaching trying to save the world while their own kids are going to hell. Many have the attitude that they are out there doing the work of God, then God needs to take care of their family; that it's their relationship with God, their ministry to the world, then their ministry to their family. This is not right. It's your relationship with God, your ministry to your family, then your ministry to the world. The Bible says if you don't have your household in order you are not qualified for ministry.

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We have to get back to the Word of God. This is why I have such an issue with all these preachers getting a divorce one day and then are right back in the ministry the next. I'm not saying they're disqualified for life, but I'm saying is not only do they have to get over the issue of the divorce, but they have to get over the issue of why they couldn't get their family in order. If he were dying to himself and truly a servant of Christ, and loved his wife as Christ loves the Church, there's hardly a woman out there who would want to leave. You have to have a Christ-like attitude. If you don't know how to have that attitude in church, you'll not have that attitude toward your wife, you'll not have that attitude toward your children. If you don't have a Godly household the Bible says you are disqualified from leadership.

What are the priorities in all of our relationships?

First and foremost our priority is to be our relationship with God Almighty, and second is our relationship with our family and ministering to them.

Which means we have to have a breakthrough in the Church. We need a breakthrough in families, we need a breakthrough in understanding. You can never forsake ministering to your family for the sake of public ministry. If you're too busy to minister to your family, then you're just flat out too busy, and you need to prioritize your life.

Usually the reason you are too busy for your family is you're coveting, you're out there trying to build your kingdom. You're afraid if you don't do all these things, you're going to loose what you have, or not get what you want.

I'm so tired of this thing called preachers kids: a "PK". The definition of a PK is a backslidden, hard nose, rebellious kid. Preachers aren't doing their jobs. They're not ruling their houses well. That's a horrible testimony! We need to get this right. The family unit is the foundation of the church. Without a strong family unit, we will never have a strong church.

Attribute 14: Not a novice.

When I was in my twenties I was side by side with some of the biggest names. Many of these guys were only a couple of years older than me and already had money and were all becoming the big names, the superstars. None of them made it into their 40's without falling majorly into sin. One after another they fell because the body of Christ is notorious for exalting a novice.

We are not to promote a novice lest they be pumped up with pride and fall. We're always looking for a new personality to throw to the top, because we're not like a leader should be. We're not patient. We're coveting for some big thing, and we run these people to the top and we destroy one after another, after another. There is hardly a guy or gal who shot to the top in their 20's in

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Christian ministry in the early days that made it into their 40's without falling into major sin. One after another because we keep exalting novices in direct violation to the Word of God.

Proverbs 16:18 *Pride goes before destruction,
And a haughty spirit before a fall.*

When a novice is exalted he's not mature enough to handle the fame or the fortune, and it destroys them.

Attribute 15: Good rapport of them without.

A leader must have a good reputation outside in the world. People's faith is released from a seed only if they can accept you as a servant of God. You may have the most powerful Word in the world; you may have the most powerful breakthrough revelation, but if your life has told people you're not a man of God, they cannot receive of you. They cannot receive from you except they trust you to be a man or woman of God; except they trust you to be a person of integrity.

What reputation should a leader have outside in the world?

Their reputation in the world should be of a person who is blameless, honest, capable, humble, and committed to God.

Mark 6:5-6 *Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. 6 And He marveled because of their unbelief. Then He went about the villages in a circuit, teaching.*

Jesus said a prophet is without honor in his own town. What He was saying is that because they knew Him in the natural, they couldn't receive Him as a man of God. They couldn't receive of His anointing. Jesus was the most anointed person on the planet, and they couldn't receive much from Him because of how they perceived Him. They only perceived Him in the realm of the natural. How much more so in our life!

We are to have a good reputation outside the church. They should speak well of you, of your character, your honesty, your integrity so that they can then receive of your word.

Matthew 5:16 *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*

Titus 2:7 *in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility*

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1 Peter 2:12 *having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.*

I want you to have a quick list of areas of good reputation.

Number 1- your conversation, what you speak.

Philippians 1:27 *Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel*

Watch what you speak. Make sure your conversation is always honoring to Christ, always bringing honor and glory to Christ.

Proverbs 16:13 *Righteous lips are the delight of kings,
And they love him who speaks what is right.*

Ephesians 4:29 *Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.*

Build up or shut up. Only speak words that are wholesome and not corrupt.

Ephesians 4:29 AMP *Let no foul or polluting language, nor evil word nor unwholesome or worthless talk [ever] come out of your mouth, but only such [speech] as is good and beneficial to the spiritual progress of others, as is fitting to the need and the occasion, that it may be a blessing and give grace (God's favor) to those who hear it.*

Don't be engaged in corrupt speak. Don't be engaged in unholy jokes. Foolish jesting is really those who try to make everything funny, but they end up pushing that envelope and they often make fun of people. God says don't tear down people; don't you make fun of people. Be careful in your speech and conversation.

Number 2- a good reputation in your job performance.

Christians should be the best employees. The whole world should love hiring Christians. Most Christian bosses don't hire Christian workers because the Christian workers are the laziest bums they know. The Christian workers come in late and leave early. They take advantage of their Christian bosses. The bosses feel the Christian employees are stealing from them by being lazy and not doing the job. We should be the best workers; we should be the hardest workers. We should have a good reputation of being a blessing to our employers.

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Ephesians 6:5-7 *Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; 6 not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, 7 with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men*

We should be the best workers, most humble, and have the heart of a servant.

1 Timothy 6:1 *Let as many bondservants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honor; so that the name of God and His doctrine may not be blasphemed.*

If you have a bad boss, honor him anyways. Work hard for him anyways. Don't be afraid he's going to take advantage of you. He can't, because God said if you do all things unto Him, He will reward you.

Titus 2:9-10 *Exhort bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all things, not answering back, 10 not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.*

If you want your bosses to get saved, then you be the best worker you can be.

Number 3- in love and charity.

Matthew 5:43-46 *You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?*

We are to love; we are to love even when we are hated.

Our words have power and authority because our lives have integrity. That is why every time a minister rises up and falls it hurts the Word of God because that minister lost their integrity. The Church as a whole lost the power of our Word because he did not live up to the character and nature of what even the world knows a godly man should be.

We learned this in the lesson of Saul: Quick exaltation almost always leads to self destruction. Saul shot to the top, but he became corrupt. David was a teenager when he was anointed to be king, but it was many years later before he ever took the throne. He went through the process of being tried and tested. When we are faithful without the least of these things, we will be faithful with much.

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God give us the attributes of a leader. These are the attributes you need. Let them develop in you so you can be the man or woman of God that He has called you to be. Don't be in a rush. Take time. You don't get these overnight. These take the working of God in our lives. Begin to pray over each of these areas.

For Further Study:

Romans 8:25 KJV *But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.*

1 Peter 5:2-4 *Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; 3 nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; 4 and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.*