WEEK 6 — BIBLICAL LEADERSHIP

Section 1: Biblical Leadership- what does it look like?

(How can I become the biblical leader God has called me to be?)

How do we develop and participate in a culture of biblical leadership?

- This will touch on both general leadership and eldership/pastors

What biblical leadership is to be:

1. According to God's description:

1 Peter 5:2-3 (NIV)

[2]Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—

- protector from the enemy
- leading them to 'good pasture'
- Training them to do the right things
- Keeping them connected to the 'flock'
- Pursuing the ones that get lost
- 'Counting them'- no one is ignored or overlooked

not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be;

- Not just a 'job' that requires it, but a compassion that is from within
- A genuine desire to see God's people doing well
- A passion to please God and care for His people

not pursuing dishonest gain,

- Not in it for anything other than fulfilling God's call and caring for His people
- Not about money or fame

but eager to serve;

- We mustn't be the one telling everyone what to do, but found serving ahead of and alongside the people
- Getting our hands 'dirty' should be normal, not rare

[3]not lording it over those entrusted to you,

- Our authority is to care for the sheep, so they learn to serve God, not serve us
- We are not above the people, but one of them, appointed by God to lead us forward

but being examples to the flock.

- Everything we teach and tell the people must be examples in our everyday lives
- Not just 'Chris said', but see what Chris is doing and how he's living.

Contrast the wrong models:

- Dictatorship — "lording it over"
- Promotion — grasping for position
- People-pleasing — afraid to exercise leadership

Biblical leadership — appointed by God to lead and serve

Ask the central question:

Are we leading people where <u>God</u> wants them to go?

Which wrong model of leadership are you most familiar with: control, promotion, people-pleasing or passivity?

2. Appointed by God- not man's choice

Acts 20:28 (NIV)

[28]Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which <u>the Holy Spirit has made you overseers</u>. Be shepherds of the church of God, which He bought with His own blood.

When we choose, we base it on what we can see, what we think is important, but God knows the heart and true character of a man- David

1 Samuel 16:7 (NIV)

[7]But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. <u>The LORD does not look at the things people look at</u>. People look at the outward appearance, but <u>the LORD looks at the heart</u>."

Ephesians 1:1 (NIV)

[1]Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus <u>by the will of God</u>,

Ministry as elders isn't a vocation or job opportunity, it is a divine calling.

- Those who 'get into' ministry, even with good intentions, but without God's calling set themselves and the church up for disaster
- The perceived and real need for leadership in the church also cannot be the reason for appointment!
- God's grace and anointing are given for those He calls and it is impossible to lead God's people into God's will apart from those things!

Am I/is our leadership in place by the hand of men or by the appointment of God?

3. Led from the front

Numbers 27:15-17 (NIV)

[15]Moses said to the LORD, [16]"May the LORD, the God who gives breath to all living things, appoint someone over this community [17]to go out and come in before them, one who will lead them out and bring them in, so the LORD's people will not be like sheep without a shepherd."

Numbers 27:17 describes someone who will:

- Go out before the people
- Lead them out
- Bring them in

The leader should be spiritually moving ahead rather than trying to drive people from behind.

> The emphasis is that people need to '***see the life before they merely hear the instruction*.'**

Am I, as a leader;

- Praying?
- Reading and meditating on God's Word?
- Worshipping?
- Tithing/giving?
- In fellowship more than Sundays?
- Accountable?
- Generous?
- Sharing my faith?

- Looking after my marriage? Faithful?
- Avoiding sin?
- Growing in my faith? Maturing?

Key question:

“*Do people want to go further with God because of my life and leadership?***”**
(Inspirational)

Are we currently leading from the front in prayer, Scripture, generosity, evangelism and serving?

4. By leaders of ‘Kingdom character’?

1 Timothy 3:2-10 (NIV)

2 Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. 4 He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect. 5 (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) 6 He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. 7 He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

8 In the same way, deacons are to be worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. 9 They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. 10 They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons.

Major leadership characteristics:

- Example
- Established in their faith
- Trustworthy-demonstrated trustworthiness
- Hard worker
- Motivator
- Carer/shepherd
- Person of faith
- Speaker of God's Word
- Witness- in word and in life?
- Genuine-same person in public as in private?
- Consistent
- Accountable

Galatians 2:11-13 (NIV)

> ***[11]When Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. [12]For before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. [13]The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray.***

There cannot be a lower or lesser standard for a leader!

> Gifting, charisma, education, experience, influence and wealth must never override character!

5. With appropriate priorities

Acts 6:1-4 (NIV)

[1]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. [2]So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "<u>It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables.</u> [3]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 [4]and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

From Acts 6:

Priority #1 — Prayer

- Hearing God
- Submitting to the Spirit
- Taking direction from God, to lead accordingly
- Demonstrating that we can't do this with God!

Priority #2 — Ministry of the Word

- What we are teaching and preaching is of God, not man
- Founding people in God's truths, not our ideas or experiences
- Entrusting the people with truth to live by and then teach others
- Remaining true to what God has said

Then:

- Care for those in need
- Equip people
- Delegate responsibility
- Hold people accountable
- Train others to train others
- Develop personal discipline

- Develop future leadership

Foundational needs first!

- Our culture demands that the ‘needs based’ ministries take precedence, but the scriptures point us to the Word of God and His direction before anything else
- How this happens is directly affected by how point #1 is lived out- what kind of leadership do we have?

6. **Who equips the saints**

(Dudley specifically warns against leaders doing all the ministry themselves)

Ephesians 4:11-16 (NIV)

[11]So Christ Himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, [12]to equip His people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up

> Ephesians 4 calls leaders, with the apostolic team, to **equip God's people to do the work.**

Too often we have two forms of church culture, both unbiblical:

1) **Leaders/elders do all the work, while the people become spectators**
    a) The leaders are worn out
    b) The people remain immature
    c) Consumerism takes over
    d) Many will never actually know Jesus or their purpose
2) **Leaders/elders become celebrities and hire/have others do everything while they only do ‘appearances’**
    a) Jesus takes a back seat to the preacher
    b) The people adopt a religious/works based faith

c) Many will place their faith in leaders, not God
d) The ‘little kingdom’ will fall and people will be lost in the collapse
e) Many will turn away from God completely

When the whole body is functioning together, each doing their part, each connected to genuine community, the church will flourish!

- Leaders will be focused on what God has called them to do
- The people will become priests, thriving in their calling and finding fulfillment as a vital part of God’s church
- The whole body will shoulder the load together
- Dependency will fall back onto the Holy Spirit and not on man

What am I presently doing that someone else should be equipped to do?

77. Brings the church to maturity

[13]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. [14]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. [15]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. [16]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.

Maturity of the saints is the key to all that God desires to do with His church!

- the whole measure of the fullness of Christ
- The mature body of Him who is the head
- Every part doing its work, not just the faithful few
- Not flighty or blown all over, but mature and stable

88. Seeking the unity of the church (partnering beyond the local)

John 17:20-23 (NIV)

20 "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— 23 I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

- Within the local church
    - Our need for each other
    - Our equal value before the Father, even with varied roles
    - Our depth of relationship and care for one another
- Beyond 'our church'
    - We need the churches around us
    - They matter just as much
    - No competition, but cooperation
    - Seeking genuine partnerships to reach the lost and glorify God

As leaders, these things cannot be ignored

- They are essential and safeguards for the leadership to have a Kingdom view of the church and the world
- To show the world how much of a 'God thing' this all is

9. Raising up leaders (discipleship)

1 Timothy 1:18-19 (NIV)

[18]Timothy, my son, I am giving you this command in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by recalling them you may fight the battle well, [19]holding on to faith and a good conscience,....

Biblical leadership continually makes disciples and invests in others:

- For their purpose and calling
- For the current calling of the church
- For the next generation
- For multiplication
- For evangelism of the world

Leadership that does not continually invest in others has lost sight of the future, God's will and has started to lean on our own gifts instead of the priesthood God has called us to become.

Who am I intentionally developing as a leader?

Ongoing Assignment

- Pray for the leadership daily!
- Rise up into your role in the life of the church, leading as God leads you
- Be intentional about your development and growth in Christ
- Think of one person you can start discipline/developing and one responsibility you can begin transferring to them that will stretch, encourage and give them room to walk more in what God has for their lives.

Recap of the course:

A 6-Week Course on the ‘where, what & why’ of the church

Overall course purpose:

- ➔ Move forward in faith to accomplish what God has called the church to do.
- ➔ understand the nature and purpose of the local church
- ➔ cultivate strong relationships and Kingdom culture
- ➔ hear and obey God
- ➔ help build a secure and healthy church, therefore secure and healthy people
- ➔ To develop a people who understand God’s calling and plan for His church (biblical leadership)

Week 1 — Where are we going?
→ Taking Possession of What God Has Promised-Chris

Week 2 — What exactly are we building?
→ The Basis & Boundaries of the Church-Alistair

Week 3 — How do we build with people?
→ Developing Relationships-Logan

Week 4 — How does the leader receive direction?
→ Hearing God Speak-Alistair

Week 5 — What does healthy church leadership produce?
→ Growth, Security & Stability-Logan

Week 6 — Who must the leader become?
→ God’s Calling (Biblical Leadership)- Chris