

From The Pastor's Study Leadership

Throughout history we have had great leaders and many of them went from great to far less than great. That has happened before America was even a country yet within our nations history. Consider slavery, slavers were supplying what American elite with what was completely acceptable at the time, in fact twelve of the nations leaders owned slaves, some while in office. Even George Washington owned slaves and Thomas Jefferson was so considerate of his slaves that he demanded their freedom...after his death.

And yet these were great leaders of our nation. John F. Kennedy is considered a great president by many yet he took us to the verge of a dangerous war. Those who served in the military weren't crazy about adopting a failing war in Vietnam. Many of our leaders went from great to feet of clay, maybe we shouldn't expect them to be superhuman.

Okay, we have some general statements about a few leaders from our history but what do we want from leaders? I am talking about leaders in our government, our cities and towns, our military, even our churches...particularly our churches. There are some traits we like to have in all of these positions.

Any leader must know those under his/her area of responsibility; as much as possible the individuals must be known and their abilities, their strengths and weaknesses. The leader needs to be trusted by those leads and the best way that is done is by honesty in as many ways as possible, a leader must be trusted. A leader must be strong, not on physical power but in leading people and in standing for people. The leader must also be compassionate and understand people are not perfect.

We can look at the only perfect leader who has ever lived and see how our leaders in history and today rank. Before I go any further, this isn't about politics, it is about leadership. We only really have one document we can depend on to provide accurate information, the Bible.

What about leaders in the church, what should we be looking for in church leaders? Well first, which church leaders are we talking about? When we say "church leader" we of course tend to first think about the pastor and of course he/she is or should be a leader in the church but he is but one of many who have leadership roles.

If the pastor had to fill all the leadership roles in the church I doubt an 80 hour work week would get it done. The Church Secretary is often passed over when talking about leaders but she does a whole lot more than answer the phone. Property and admin would take so much time the pastor would never get work done. The worship ministry chooses music and makes sure everything is ready for Sunday Worship. We have fellowship ministry, outreach, congregational

care, food pantry, church school, our sound system and other technology, the entire praise team is comprised of leaders for worship.

So what does the pastor do? Most people think preaching is about all I do and that is the most visible thing I do. But I also sing with the praise team, which I love to do but that also requires time. Then there is sermon prep, which takes between 15 and 25 hours each week plus developing slides for music, the sermon and the service. Then there is counseling and general oversight.

So, what do you want from your pastor, what can I do to help you in your spiritual journey? Yes, I am busy but I am so blessed to serve a congregation filled with God's people who are so filled with love for our Lord and one another. Every Sunday I come to join and lead you in worship along with a number of people.

I am thoroughly convinced God brings us together to serve the one another and worship and praise the one true God.