

**H.E.A.R. Discipleship Center Int'l**  
**Ministerial Development**  
**Course: Leadership**

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## **Biblical Principles Essential for leadership**

What are Jesus principles of leadership and what are His thoughts on how individuals can become leaders? We will be examining this question by studying Jesus' teachings and ideologies concerning leadership.

We begin by saying that there is nothing more powerful than an idea. Creation is the outcome of one of God's ideas and the inventions now in existence are the end product of someone's idea. An idea is a divine seed that can be cultivated to create many things.

### **Definitions:**

- **Idea:** It is a conceived, captured or retained thought. It is the mental representation of something or an act of understanding.
- **Thought:** It is an unspoken or silent word. This is where ideas and concepts are organized.
- **Word:** Is a revealed and exposed thought. The word expresses the idea. When we speak, we reveal our ideas and expose our way of seeing things.

“...for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.” Luke 6:45

- **Ideology.** When an idea becomes an established thought (the opinion or doctrine of an individual or class that is accepted)

It is an established idea or set of ideas characterizing a person, group or period of time, or a cultural, religious or political movement. (example: Three Greek ideologists established democracy - the free and equal right of every person to participate in a system of government.)

- **Philosophy.** is to love what we know and to have intimacy with our thoughts.

When an ideology is established then it becomes a philosophy. A philosopher thinks and speaks his own thoughts. Each of us has our own philosophy or way of seeing things.

This philosophy is not from God, but from the world. The source of our ideas should be God; otherwise, our philosophy is wrong.

“For as he thinks in his own mind, so is he.” Proverbs 23:7

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**We think about, become and have faith in whatever we continually hear.** The ideas and words we continually hear are important because they change the way we think. And our faith is limited to what we hear.

“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” Romans 10:17

**If we allow the Lord to work in us, in our mind, our philosophy and our thinking then we will be changed.**

A persons convictions and motives will be according to their philosophy. As leaders, it is very important that we know and understand Jesus philosophy.

**The quality of our leadership will only be as good as our philosophy; it is controlled by it.**

- ❖ **There are certain types of Philosophies which can lead to strongholds, especially if they established for a long period of time.**
  - **Stronghold is defined as:**
    - An established idea in the mind that predisposes the person to certain ways of reacting. It is a mindset, impregnated with hopelessness, which the individual accepts as fact that a particular situation can't be changed.
    - A stronghold is anything that hinders an individual from doing what God says he can do or becoming what God says he is.

These strongholds create a mentality that becomes the basis for every action taken.

- ❖ **A few types of strongholds resulting from false philosophies are:**
  - **Strongholds that set limitations.** These are spoken words that cause the mentality of “I can't” I'm worthless, and “I'm unworthy.” (Example: Negative words spoken to children)
  - **Deceptive Strongholds.** When an individual embraces a lie and rejects the truth.
  - **Philosophical strongholds.** These are false doctrines the enemy uses to deceive people. (Example: New Age religions, Unitarism)

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“Whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.” 2 Corinthians 4:4

- **Strongholds of Pride.** These strongholds are always looking for ways to exalt the ego, making people think they are better than others. (Example: bigotry, prejudice, racism)
- **Mental Strongholds.** These thoughts are based on teaching and personal experience that are closed to revelation or God’s changes.(Example: does not believe in healing, miracles)
- **Personal Strongholds.** These are established patterns of conduct, thoughts and old habits in an individual’s mind.
- **Strongholds of poverty and despair.** These types of strongholds set limitations on people, not only in the personal aspect such as in the home, but the financial area as well.

**We must be aware of these strongholds so that we do away with them in our own minds.** These prevent us from being and doing what God wants. If we are to be effective leaders, we must change our old mentality.

“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds; casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;”  
2 Corinthians 10:4, 5

#### **❖ What are Jesus Fundamental Principles on leadership?**

1. **Philosophy or way of thinking:** A person reacts and treats others according to the way he thinks. The way a leader thinks is vital; his success depends on it.

“For as he thinks in his own mind, so is he.” Proverbs 23:7

2. **Service or the heart of a servant:** (Greek “doulos” servant or slave~ One who invests his life to serve others, in love.)  
The goal of a Christian leader is his **service**, not His status. We are servants of the Lord Jesus Christ.

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“And he said unto them, the kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors. But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve. For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? Is not he that sitteth at meat? But I am among you as he that serveth.” Luke 22:25-27; Mark 10:42-45

**Philosophy creates values.** If our philosophy has a low regard for people, they will be treated according to this low standard. But in God’s Kingdom – His people are of the utmost importance –they are the apple of His eye.

The Lord saw philosophy as the number one priority in His leadership. Before doing anything with the disciples, he first established His philosophy.

❖ **Jesus Philosophy:**  
**Matthew 5:1-12 “The Beatitudes”**

**Blessed** (Greek “makarios”): indicating something that is big or of long duration. Meaning blessed, happy, to be sent, spiritually prosperous, with life, joy, peace and God’s favor; completely satisfied, regardless of external circumstances.

- **Blessed are the poor in Spirit** (Greek “ptocos”) meaning  
An individual is satisfied not because of circumstances, but because he knows how to deal with difficult situations in order to achieve what God has prepared for him. This is to lose confidence in your own strength and to recognize the need for total dependence on God.

It is to be desperate for God! Requiring Him as a vital necessity! Always choosing Him before everything else: Family, job, hobbies, etc. Seeking Him or anything that will cause him to come closer to God – prayer, the Word.

“...for without me you can do nothing “ John 15:5

- **Blessed are those who mourn (the afflicted)** for they shall be comforted.  
This type of sorrow allows one to be blessed. Godly sorrow (as in repentance)

“For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.” 2 Cor. 7:10

- This is sadness one feels for the sins of others -- This allows us to pray & help others to come into the Kingdom of God.
- It is sadness experienced because of someone else’s pain.

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- This is compassion! Compassion always leads to us manifesting love in action. Love in action always moves the heart of God to display His power!

“And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things. Mark 6:34 (Five thousand fed);

- **Blessed are the meek:** for they shall inherit the earth.  
Meek (Greek praotes) meaning those who accept God’s dealings without resistance or arguments, without murmuring, complaining or struggling against Him.

Meekness is strength under control. This is an individual who doesn’t defend himself when criticized, he doesn’t answer back to those who persecute him BUT let’s God be the one who avenges him and fights his battles for him.

“Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.” Romans 12:19

- **Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness,** for they shall be filled.

**These people have :**

- Strong moral & spiritual values in the presence of God.
- Desire to be transparent before God.
- They are hungry for holiness and a right relationship with Him.

This is a person that lives in a permanent state of uprightness, integrity and fear of the Lord. Their reward will be to be saturated with God Himself.

- **Blessed are the merciful:** for they shall obtain mercy.  
This is an individual that will experience anguish (agony) when he sees someone else’s need or condition.

He is merciful because he has this attribute, his mercy is a result of God living in him and inspiring him to be. The one who shows mercy will receive mercy. If we fail to show mercy judgment will be upon us.

“For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shown no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.” James 2:13

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- **Blessed are the pure in heart:** for they shall see God.

Pure (Greek “katharos”) meaning without mixture, spotless, pure, without contamination, honest, simple, whole, moving in one direction, cleansed through the shakings of life.

The person who is pure and clean sees things the way God sees them and sees God in everything. We are to exchange the hypocritical, ill-intentioned mind for a pure, clean one.

This individual will be the same in private as in public; upright in all areas of their life. Wrong motives & intentions must be discarded and a new mentality full of pure, uncontaminated motives and intentions must replace it.

“Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.” Psalm 51:10

“Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.” Titus 1:15

- **Blessed are the peacemakers:** for they shall be called the children of God. Peacemaker (Gr. “eirenopoios”) One who makes peace with others, after first receiving the peace of God in his heart. A peacemaker is one that ends disagreements.

**Jesus philosophy was “peace is better than war” Jesus is the Prince of Peace.** He not only give us peace, he desires that we promote peace.

“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” John 14:27

“He must turn from evil and do good; he must seek peace and pursue it.” 1 Peter 3:11

“Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.” Hebrews 12:14

- **Blessed are those who are persecuted** for righteousness sake: for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.

Jesus taught his disciples that persecution was part of spiritual success.

“All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution “ 2 Timothy 3:12

“If the world hates you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the

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world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember the word that I said unto you, the servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me."  
John 15:18-21

❖ **How can we change the way we think?**

Do not conform in mind or character to the molds and patterns that predominate in the world. Rise to the next level, remaining in a constant state of change through the adoption of new thought patterns, that will improve you so that you may be able to discern, test, and approve the existence of other levels of the will of God that they are worthwhile, good and pleasant.

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think: but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.”  
Romans 12:2-3

- **“Do not be conformed”** Conforming self, in mind and character, to other patterns of thought, or schemes.
- **“Transformed”**: To change in order to improve or to rise to a higher level. To exchange the old for the new.
- **Repent** (Greek “metanoeo”) it means to change the old mentality, to change the way we think, and to change our mind from what is bad to what is good.

**You cannot become a leader unless you develop the heart of a servant.**

❖ **What are the reasons for serving?**

- **To express gratitude for what Jesus did for us.** When you serve, you are saying to the Lord, “thank you for everything you have done for me.”
  
- **To support the growth of the church or organization.** God’s plan is for every believer to support and serve the local church with his finances, talents, gifts and abilities.

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- **To make a difference that will last for an eternity.** When you do what you are passionate about, it will always make a difference in the people around you and the results will be eternal. If you desire to be an effective leader, then you must make a difference wherever you are by serving the people wholeheartedly, leaving your personal ambitions behind. Exalting God in everything and for everything.

❖ **What are incorrect reasons for serving?**

- **Guilt:** This should never be the factor that motivates us to serve the Lord. We should serve out of a thankful heart. When we serve out of guilt, it is nothing more than trying to erase the wrong we have done with good works, but we know that only the blood of Jesus can remove sin.
- **Due to pressure:** This happens when we tell people there is no one else available to do the job. It is not biblical to pressure people into service. Pressure steals joy; we must serve God with a joyful heart.
- **In order to please someone else:** this type of service is done when our desire is to please man and not God.
- **Pride:** Sometimes our desire is to be seen, mentioned and recognized. Thus, we are not serving the Lord but feeding our own ego.