

PATTERNS FOR GODLY LEADERSHIP

IN THE CONTEXT OF PASTORAL MINISTRY

Philippians 2:17 Yes, and if I am being poured out as a *drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith,*

Philippians 2:18 For the same reason you also be glad and rejoice with me. (Matthew 20:25–28).

INTRO:

- (1) According to Christ, the truest kind of leadership demands service, sacrifice, and selflessness.

A proud and self-promoting person is not a good leader by Christ's standard, regardless of how much clout he or she might wield.

- (2) Notice, by the way, that Jesus was teaching Christians to approach leadership in a different way and from a radically different point of view than the leaders of this world.

It's folly for Christians to assume as these days many do that the best way for Christians to learn leadership is from worldly examples.

There's a crucial reason for this: Leadership for the Christian *always* has a spiritual dimension.

- (4) The duty of leading people carries with it certain spiritual obligations.

That is as true for the Christian president of a secular company as it is for the stay-at-home mom whose sphere of leadership might extend no further than her own children. All Christians in every kind of leadership are called to be *spiritual* leaders.

OUTLINE:

- I. ACTIVITIES
- II. OBLIGATIONS

I. THE ACTIVITIES OF GODLY LEADERS, according to the apostle Paul

Philippians 2:16 holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

Philippians 2:17 Yes, and if I am being poured out as a *drink offering* on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.

1. THE FOCUS HERE IS NOT ON THE INDIVIDUAL CHURCH MEMBERS ACTIVITIES, RATHER, IT'S ON A THE ACTIVITIES OF GODLY LEADERS

A. PAUL OPENS UP HIS OWN HEART AND LIFE, TO HELP US UNDERSTAND THE ACTIVITIES GODLY OF LEADERS

IDEA: What Paul says in these verses, is not exhaustive, it is not a complete list of what a Godly leader does. But, it sure sheds true light on leadership

- (1) Leaders Run as in a race run, means to make a rapid movement, rush, to advance, to make an effort to advance spiritually, to exert oneself

(2) Leaders Labor, or become weary, tired. The word labor, means to exert oneself physically, mentally, or spiritually, to work hard, to toil, strive, and to struggle

(3) Leaders Sacrifice, which is an act, of offering themselves, as a sacrifice. Paul says, my life is like a drink offering being poured out. [Leviticus 2:2-3](#)

The meal offering depicts that man has a claim on man. We are obligated to love our neighbor as ourselves; we are our brother's keeper. We owe these to fellow man, and therefore fellow man has a claim on our love, even as we have a claim on his love.

Paul writes in Philippians 2:17, "Yes, and if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your [faith](#), I am glad and rejoice with you all."

The drink offering was an attachment to the meal offering. Clearly, Paul considered his life as an offering to the Philippians for the benefit of their faith in [God](#) and His purpose.

Because of this, he was not able to live life as he might otherwise have chosen. He was always at their service; he sacrificed his life on their behalf.

What we do know is that the pouring out of a drink offering is a metaphor for the blood Jesus spilled on the cross.

Jesus spoke to this directly in [Luke 22:20](#) when He instituted the New Covenant.

He picked up a cup of wine and said, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood." Jesus' sacrifice fulfilled the need of a drink offering, His blood literally pouring out when the soldier pierced His side with a spear ([John 19:34](#)).

- (4) Leaders Serve. Paul actually says, “Service” which carries the idea of service of a personal nature, to help, and to assist others

POINT: All of these words, are action words

2. WHAT THEN, IS THE PRIMARY FOCUS OF THESE ACTIVITIES

IDEA: Here are what I understand the primary duties of a pastor to be

- (1) To understand what not to do See Acts Chapter 6:1- 7

Acts 6:2 Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, “It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables.

Acts 6:3 brethren, seek out from among you seven men of *good* reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business;

Acts 6:4 but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

- (2) To understand what to do See Ephesians 4:11, and following

Ephesians 4:11 And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

Ephesians 4:12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the ^{le}edifying of the body of Christ,

Equipping means to cause to be in a condition to function well, put in order, restore to prepare for a purpose, prepare, make, create, outfit

The work of ministry work, means that which displays itself in activity of any kind, deed, action and ministry, means service rendered in an intermediary capacity, mediation, assignment

Edifying process of building, building, construction a building as result of a construction process, building, edifice

No man ever succeeds in anything who does not give himself wholly to it: it matters not what it is, concentration is essential to perfection in any pursuit. He who would be eminent in any one direction must forego a great many other things which are perfectly allowable; these he must renounce for the sake of his one object. He will not succeed unless he sacrifices all other things to the one chief thing.

To have a great many aims and objects is much the same thing as having no aim at all; for if a man shoots at many things he will hit none, or none worth the hitting.

I. THE PRIMARY ACTIVITIES OF A GODLY LEADER

II. THE OBLIGATIONS OF A GODLY LEADER

IDEA: Again, this is not an exhaustive list but here are three that cannot be neglected and, are to be on-going

- (1) Paul's Instruction to Timothy about the use of his time and energy

1st Timothy 4:13 Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to ^{the} doctrine.

Attention, means to be in a state of alert, be concerned about, care for, take care

1st Timothy 4:14 Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.

1st Timothy 4:15 Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.

Meditate means to fix one's mind on something, to think about it

1st Timothy 4:16 Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

Entirely, means to move forward to a final stage, be advanced, be far gone, to move forward to an improved state, progress, advance

We must be all conscious that we imitate those whom we admire. Love has a strange influence over our nature, to mold it into the form beloved.

(2) Paul's instruction to Timothy about the grace of God the training of leaders, and three helpful pictures of ministry

2nd Timothy 2:1 You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

Be Strong to cause one to be able to function or do something. strengthen
Grace is, to give freely as a favor, give gracious!

2nd Timothy 2:2 And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also

2nd Timothy 2:3 You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

2nd Timothy 2:4 No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of *this* life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.

2nd Timothy 2:5 And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.

2nd Timothy 2:6 The hardworking farmer must be first to partake of the crops.

(3) Peter's instruction
to other Elders and
their responsibilities

1st Peter 5:1 The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed:

1st Peter 5:2 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but ^[a]willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly;

Shepherd, means To, serve as tender of sheep, herd, tend, (lead to) pasture to watch out for other people, to shepherd, of activity that protects, rules, governs, fosters,

Serving as Overseers, means to give attention to, look at, take care, see to it, to accept responsibility, for the care of someone, oversee, care for

1st Peter 5:2 serving as overseers, not by compulsion but ^[a]willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly

Not by **Compulsion**, means, necessity or constraint as inherent in the nature of things, necessity, pressure

*But, **willingly** to doing something, of one's own volition, voluntary, as a volunteer*

*But, **Eagerly**, means being eager to be of service, willingly, freely*

1st Peter 5:3 nor as being ^llords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock;

***Not as being lords** to bring into subjection, become master, gain dominion over, subdue*

***But, being examples** a mark made as the result of a blow or pressure, mark, trace*

You are of no use in the ministry, my dear brother, if you are not quite willing to be called a fool, to be called a thief, or even to be called a devil! You will never be successful if you are afraid of being pelted.

The true minister often finds his pulpit to be a place but little preferable to a pillory, and he is content to stand there, feeling that all the abuse and blasphemy which may come upon him are only the means by which the world recognizes and proves its recognition of a God-sent man.

Oh! to rest upon the covenant which is made in grace, and to hold fast the covenant which Christ has compelled us to make with him, resolved that even should he take all away, our joy, our comfort, and our ease, we will still stand to it, and still keep the covenant.

Faithful preachers are among God's best gifts. Cherish them, and be obedient to their admonitions. I have known persons become offended when a minister is "too personal;" but wise men always prize a ministry in proportion as it is personal to themselves. He who never tells me of my faults, nor makes me feel uneasy, is not likely to be the means of good to my soul. What is the use of a dog that never barks?

I do believe that some folk go to hear ministers with the idea that there will be something to find fault with, and, of course, they find that it is so; and when people come to hear another preacher, with the hope and expectation that God will bless them, of course God does bless them.