

"Quality Leadership"

Colossians 1:1-2

Topic: A Leader's Qualities *(Not exhaustive)*

Leader: Paul (**vs. 1a**)

- Who is he? *(A former pharisee turned Christian and Apostle - What is an Apostle?)*
- Where is he? *(Acts 28:16-20, 30-31)*
- Why is he? *(Galatians 1:11-24)*

Qualities of Godly Leadership to look for:

1. **Is their leadership inspired by God's will? (vs. 1b)**

- A. Too many leaders and their ministries aren't today.
 - I. "Leaders" misleading Colossae aren't...that's what Paul is getting at. (see 2:8, 16, 18-21)
 - a.) The Colossians Heresy: (2:8 - Love of Wisdom & Tradition, 16 - Ceremonialism, 18 - Aceticism & Spiritualism.
- B. How do we know?
 - I. They should have godly accountability. (**vs. 1c**)

Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction. - 2 Peter 3:14-16

- II. They should have godly submission. *(Paul submitted to other leaders - Acts 15; Antioch Church)*
- III. They should have godly character & conduct. *(i.e., Christlikeness)*
 - a.) Character:
 - i.) Servant of Christ. (1:7)
 - b.) Conduct:
 - i.) Ministers of the Gospel. (1:23)
 - ii.) Labor in Evangelism & Discipleship. (1:28-29)
 - iii.) Struggle for the Church. (2:1)

- C. God's will never compromises on these requisites. *(He works no other way through leaders.)*
- D. **Who are your spiritual leaders?** *(via church, t.v., radio, books, conferences, organizations, etc.?)*

2. **Does their leadership have godly followers? (vs. 2a)**

- A. "Saints and faithful brethren" as opposed to unholy, unfaithful "brethren."
- B. A caution here: It's not enough of an indicator that a leader and his/her ministry is from God just because they have "followers."
 - I. Look carefully at their followers. *(Are these leaders producing Christ-like people?)*
 - II. Watch out for false teachers. *(These are often sociopaths.)*
- C. **Are your spiritual leaders making disciples of Christ and more God-called leaders?** *(like Timothy & Epaphras - 1:7)*

3. **Do their ministries offer grace and peace? (vs. 2b)**

- A. The Gospel is rooted in grace and peace from God through Jesus Christ alone. (**GOSPEL**)
- B. Godly ministries are rooted in much more than these, however, grace & peace are a good start and an indicator of much more blessings and fruit of ministry that can be built upon these.
- C. **Do your spiritual leaders bring a Gospel of grace and peace in Jesus Christ?**