



What Makes a "Fit" Christian Leader?

1 Peter 5:3: (NASB) *nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.*



As a nation, we are facing what many say is one of the most important elections of our time. What people look for is someone to show them a pathway through difficulties, give them a vision for the future and be trustworthy. That is what leadership is all about. The question is, is that what Christian leadership is all about? What makes a really truly God-blessed Christian leader? Stay with us as we find out!

What is leadership?

John 21:15-17: (NASB) ¹⁵So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these? He said to him, Yes, Lord; You know that I love you. He said to him, Tend my lambs. ¹⁶He said to him again a second time, Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, Yes, Lord; you know that I love you. He said to him, Shepherd my sheep. ¹⁷He said to him the third time, Simon, son of John, do you love me? Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, Do you love me? And he said to him, Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you. Jesus said to him, Tend my sheep.

Here is the first request for Christian leadership - Jesus is asking Simon Peter to lead Jesus' flock.

Defining a leader, Patrick Dixon

- Look over your shoulder! If people are following you, you're a leader; if they are not, you aren't. It's as simple as that. Leadership comes from who you are, not from your position in life.
- You can put someone who is a mediocre leader and give them a big promotion and big hierarchal structure with all the people reporting in to all the other people and I promise you this, you will not turn him into a leader. You can have someone who exists nowhere on an org chart who is an informal adviser or a consultant who may be providing more leadership to your organization than anyone else, because leadership comes from within. Leadership is something given to a leader by those who follow.

An overview of what leadership is:

1 Peter 5:1-9: (NASB) ¹Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, ²shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; ³nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. ⁴And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. ⁵You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble. ⁶Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, ⁷casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you. ⁸Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.



Never give in, Winston Churchill (1941)

- *Never give in! Never give in! Never, never, never! In nothing great or small, large or petty, never give in, except to convictions of honor and good sense. Never yield to force, never yield to the apparently overwhelming might of the enemy...*

A truly great spiritual leader will not make up his own rules, but will rely on the word of God.

What happens when leadership is bad?

The pronouncements against the 'shepherds of Israel' is very appropriate in defining *misuse* of leadership:

Ezekiel 34:1-6: (NASB) ¹Then the word of the LORD came to me saying, ²Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel. Prophesy and say to those shepherds, Thus says the Lord GOD, Woe, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flock?

So, who has been the primary focus of the shepherds? Self!

³You eat the fat and clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fat sheep without feeding the flock. ⁴Those who are sickly you have not strengthened, the diseased you have not healed, the broken you have not bound up, the scattered you have not brought back, nor have you sought for the lost; but with force and with severity you have dominated them.

What was the motivation of the shepherds? Self! Comfort and laziness!

⁵They were scattered for lack of a shepherd, and they became food for every beast of the field and were scattered. ⁶My flock wandered through all the mountains and on every high hill; My flock was scattered over all the surface of the earth, and there was no one to search or seek for them.

What was the result of the shepherds' efforts? A scattering of the sheep!

This is both bad news and good news. The bad news is that even in those ancient times when God's chosen people were a nation, there was serious corruption in their spiritual leadership.

Good news? The good news is that this all-too-familiar corruption is not the sole property of Christianity, but is a shared darkness. (Hmmm...pretty weird "good news.")

Do we have scripturally fit Christian leaders today?



Mind Control Groups, Devil's influence, Geraldo Rivera

- *These extreme Fundamentalist preachers characterize anything or anyone that is outside of their ministry as being of the Devil or satanic.*
- *For example, if Debbie's mother came to her and tried to persuade her to leave the church because she was concerned about that organization and its hierarchy, Debbie would see her mother as under the influence of the Devil.*
- *The pastor would go so far as to say to many congregants like Debbie, if you doubt our doctrine, if you question in your mind through your own intuitive thinking what we are telling you, that isn't you thinking independently, you are under the attack of the Devil, the Devil is invading your mind.*



The Apostle Paul warned the Elders of Ephesus what was coming for them:

Acts 20:28-31: (NASB) ²⁸Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. ²⁹I know that after my departure **savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock;** ³⁰**and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.** ³¹Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears.

Again: wrong focus, wrong motivation and wrong result - both "from without" and "from within." These are leaders drawing followers to themselves and not to God.

1 Timothy 4:1-5: (NASB) ¹But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times **some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,** ²by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron, ³men who forbid marriage and advocate abstaining from foods which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth. ⁴For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with gratitude; ⁵for it is sanctified by means of the word of God and prayer.

Some will be deceived by the very influence of Satan and be drawn away from true Christianity.

What qualifies a Christian leader?

First, a quick look at one of the things that qualified a great world leader:



Winston Churchill's Nazi foresight, londonbusinessforum.com

- *At a time when he was virtually the only person in frontline politics to argue this, he kept arguing it for at least eight years. He was not put off arguing it by the fact that he was written off as a "warmonger" and attacked in the press constantly and in the House of Commons, having his judgment questioned. Those years of wilderness was what gave him the moral power and force to demand the Premiership from the outgoing Neville Chamberlain in 1940.*

The Christian leader's approach would be a prayerful one and not one motivated by his own desire.

We will be glancing at 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9 and the revealing lists of what qualifies a Christian leader:

1 Timothy 3:1: (NKJV) *This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work.*

1 Timothy 3:2-7: (NKJV) *A bishop then must be:*

- **blameless, - not arrested, i.e. (by implication) inculpable**

This means living an honorable life, following the law. (Of course this applies to the whole flock, as well!)

Philippians 2:15: (NKJV) *that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,*

- **the husband of one wife,**



- **temperate, - sober, i.e. (fig.) circumspect**

If you are competing, you wouldn't normally be restrained. But here it means to be restrained in all areas of your life so that you can really focus on the spiritual things.

1 Corinthians 9:25: (NKJV) *And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.*

There is a dramatic cost to leadership. Part of worthy leadership is being able to pay that cost on a constant basis without complaint.

- **sober-minded, - safe (sound) in mind, i.e. self-controlled (moderate as to opinion or passion)**

1 Peter 1:13: (NKJV) *Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;*

You are moderate in self and passionate in the grace.

- **of good behavior, - orderly, i.e. decorous:**

A good leader lives what Christianity ought to look like.

- **hospitable, - fond of guests**
- **able to teach, - instructive**

2 Timothy 2:15: (NKJV) *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

According to John Maxell (leadership mentor), "You can love people without leading them, but you cannot lead people without loving them. Connecting with people continues by communicating with them."

- **not given to wine,**

Ephesians 5:18: (NKJV) *And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit.*

- **not violent, (physical and verbal towards others)**

Titus 3:2: (NKJV) *to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men.*

- **not greedy for money,**

1 Timothy 6:6-10: (NKJV) ⁶Now godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. ⁸And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. ⁹But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. ¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

- **but gentle,**

1 Thessalonians 5:14: (NKJV) *Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.*



Jesus was very gentle but was firm when he needed to be.

- **not quarrelsome,**

2 Timothy 2:24: (NKJV) *And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient...*

If you are in a position to be a Christian leader, the truth of the Scriptures should speak for itself.

- **not covetous,**

2 Peter 2:3: (NKJV) *By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.*



Five Levels of Leadership, The Permission Level, John Maxwell

- *Leadership is getting people to work for you when they are not obligated.*
- *Question: I have about five or six really good leaders. I want to bring one of them up to a whole new position. How can I know who is the best of the six leaders? Answer: What would happen if you took those six leaders, went into the community, and put each one in charge of a volunteer community project? The best leader of the six is one who can most successfully lead volunteers.*

Timothy was himself young, yet Paul entrusted him with the deep things of God and with significant leadership responsibility. Why?

Because he was mature in the spirit:

1 Timothy 4:12: (NKJV) *Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.*

Age isn't necessarily a factor if spiritual maturity exists.

1 Timothy 6:17-21: (NKJV) ¹⁷*Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. ¹⁸Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, ¹⁹storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life. ²⁰O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge— ²¹by professing it some have strayed concerning the faith. Grace be with you. Amen.*

The foundation should be in spiritual things, not riches.

2 Timothy 4:1-4: (NASB) ¹*I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: ²preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. ³For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, ⁴and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.*

In many cases, Christianity has been watered down to be a tool of the people - more social so that we feel good - rather than the truth of God.



Why do people follow leaders?

Mind Control Groups, pastor's authority, *Geraldo Rivera*

- *(A mother speaking after a young woman had been assaulted by a church official) I finally got her to go to the doctor, even though she was scared to death the pastor would find out.*
- *What instilled that awful fear in her?*
- *I really to this day do not understand it. The man had such an aura of power about him. He was so structured and so sure of himself that a young girl like that who needed some structure in her life at the time clung to it. She was so afraid. They told her that the Pastor was the only authority and I had no authority in her life anymore.*

We need to raise up those leaders around us who are spiritually sound. Christianity is not to make us happy and comfortable, Christianity is to be a living sacrifice. We aren't to seek physical comfort. If our leadership is guiding us in that way, we need to ask ourselves why we are sitting under such leadership.

Winston Churchill's resume of courage, *londonbusinessforum.com*

- *He was immensely morally courageous but also physically courageous. From his earliest days when he heard bullets whistle past his ear in the northwest frontier, he took part in a last great cavalry charge, he was captured and escaped from a POW camp.*
- *What people knew was that when Winston Churchill asked them for something in the second World War that required great physical courage, he was somebody who himself led from the front and was capable of demanding these things from people because they knew that he himself had that kind of courage.*

We follow those who live the example of what we want to be:

Joshua 24:15: (NASB) *If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.*

We follow because of their humility:

Philippians 3:13: (NASB) *Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead...*

Paul continued to strive and point people to Jesus, not himself. That's the kind of leader we want to follow.

We follow because they show us the vision:

Habakkuk 2:2-3: (NASB) ²*Then the LORD answered me and said, Record the vision and inscribe it on tablets, that the one who reads it may run. ³For the vision is yet for the appointed time; It hastens toward the goal and it will not fail. Though it tarries, wait for it; For it will certainly come, it will not delay.*



We follow because they show us how to live the vision:

Philippians 4:4-9: (NASB) ⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! ⁵Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. ⁶Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. ⁹**The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.**

Christian leadership takes incredible focus and the desire to do God's will.

Where should a Christian leader lead?

Away from ourselves:

Romans 13:11-14: (NASB) ¹¹Do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed. ¹²The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. ¹⁴**But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.**

To truly get away from one's self, we must be able to see how to "put on Christ." If your Christian leadership is guiding you towards your physical desires, you have to ask yourself, is that really Christian leadership or is that something nice that I like?

The Apostle Paul leads by example towards the vision of self-sacrifice:

Acts 20:17-24: (NASB) ¹⁷From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church. ¹⁸And when they had come to him, he said to them, You yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in Asia, how I was with you the whole time, ¹⁹serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials which came upon me through the plots of the Jews; ²⁰how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house, ²¹solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. ²²And now, behold, bound in spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there, ²³except that the Holy Spirit solemnly testifies to me in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions await me. ²⁴**But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.**

The Apostle Paul leaves Ephesus, knowing he will never see them again. This is his final farewell. Paul gathered the leaders and lays out his track record of absolute service. He instructs them to lead by his example, because he will be absent.

God's influence directed Paul to Jerusalem and Paul knew he would be taken captive there. He did it because it was God's will. This was just like Jesus, who knowingly walked into an unfair trial. We ought to be following in Christ's footsteps, like Paul did. He gave the leaders a responsibility to serve, not to be served.



We shall fight on the beaches, Winston Churchill

- We shall fight on the seas and oceans, we shall fight with great confidence and strength in the air. We shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be. We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and we shall fight in the streets. We shall fight in the hills, we shall never surrender!*

Philippians 1:21: (NASB) *For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.*

With this in mind, how should we now lead in the absence of the Apostle Paul, who led in the absence of Christ? We are covenanted towards sacrifice.

Philippians 1:27-30: (NASB) ²⁷*Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;* ²⁸*in no way alarmed by your opponents—which is a sign of destruction for them, but of salvation for you, and that too, from God.* ²⁹*For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for his sake,* ³⁰*experiencing the same conflict which you saw in me, and now hear to be in me.*

It's not about being dressed the best or being able to speak the best. Being a Christian leader is about being able to bring the body of Christ closer to their objective. Our leadership should be showing us how to *suffer for Christ's sake*.

Our leadership is required by God, and ought to be required by us, to put spirituality before everything else.

*So what makes a fit Christian leader?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions,
Think about it...!*

*And now even more to think about...
only in the **Full Edition** of CQ Rewind!*





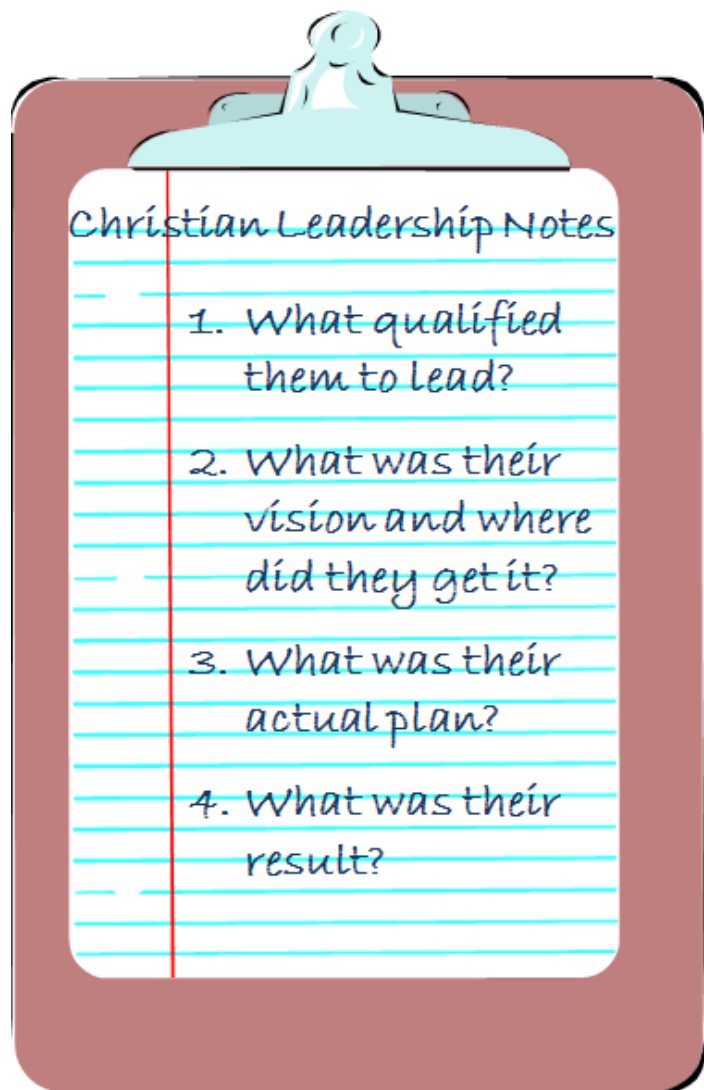
The Next Step - Profiles

We would LOVE to do Part 2 of this program, or even a series on Biblical Leadership. This would be based on much of YOUR input, so if you are up for the challenge, here is what we are thinking...

We would like to examine specific profiles in leadership from the Scriptures. The following are a few examples, but do you have others that really impress you? Let us know!

- Moses
- Gideon
- Pharisees (not good - but a necessary comparison)
- Jesus
- False Christians Teachers (again, a necessary comparison)
- Paul

Here are some specific questions we thought would help us focus on each leader:



So, what are your thoughts? What are your observations? What are your questions?

E-mail us at rick@christianquestions.net.

We look forward to your participation!



Christian Leadership and a Paid Ministry

Should there be a paid ministry within Christianity? There are varied answers to this, so let's look at the New Testament verses that may apply:

The scriptures seem to make available a "compensation plan":

Galatians 6:6: (NRSV) *Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher.*

1 Timothy 5:17-18: (NRSV) ¹⁷*Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching;* ¹⁸*for the scripture says, You shall not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain, and, The laborer deserves to be paid.*

1 Corinthians 9:5-11: (NRSV) ⁵*Do we not have the right to be accompanied by a believing wife, as do the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas?* ⁶*Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living?* ⁷*Who at any time pays the expenses for doing military service? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat any of its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does not get any of its milk?* ⁸*Do I say this on human authority? Does not the law also say the same?* ⁹*For it is written in the law of Moses, You shall not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain. Is it for oxen that God is concerned?* ¹⁰*Or does he not speak entirely for our sake? It was indeed written for our sake, for whoever plows should plow in hope and whoever threshes should thresh in hope of a share in the crop.* ¹¹*If we have sown spiritual good among you, is it too much if we reap your material benefits?*

BUT, the principles of Greed and Pride exist and are shown in the scriptures by various examples:

Micah 3:9-12: (NRSV) ⁹*Hear this, you rulers of the house of Jacob and chiefs of the house of Israel, who abhor justice and pervert all equity,* ¹⁰*who build Zion with blood and Jerusalem with wrong!* ¹¹*Its rulers give judgment for a bribe, its priests teach for a price, its prophets give oracles for money; yet they lean upon the LORD and say, Surely the LORD is with us! No harm shall come upon us.* ¹²*Therefore because of you Zion shall be plowed as a field; Jerusalem shall become a heap of ruins, and the mountain of the house a wooded height.*

2 Timothy 4:3-4: (NRSV) ³*For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires,* ⁴*and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths.*

Acts 5:1-5: (NRSV) ¹*But a man named Ananias, with the consent of his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property;* ²*with his wife's knowledge, he kept back some of the proceeds, and brought only a part and laid it at the apostles' feet.* ³*Ananias, Peter asked, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back part of the proceeds of the land?* ⁴*While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, were not the proceeds at your disposal? How is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You did not lie to us but to God!* ⁵*Now when Ananias heard these words, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard of it.*

Therefore, we have the Apostle Paul's personal example of his use of his "right" to be compensated as a preacher and teacher of the Gospel: Bottom line - he didn't use it!

Acts 20:33-35: (NRSV) ³³*I coveted no one's silver or gold or clothing.* ³⁴*You know for yourselves that I worked with my own hands to support myself and my companions.* ³⁵*In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.*



1 Corinthians 9:12: (NRSV) *If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we still more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ.*

2 Corinthians 11:9: (NRSV) *And when I was with you and was in need, I did not burden anyone, for my needs were supplied by the friends who came from Macedonia. So I refrained and will continue to refrain from burdening you in any way.*

2 Corinthians 12:14-15: (NRSV) ¹⁴*Here I am, ready to come to you this third time. And I will not be a burden, because I do not want what is yours but you; for children ought not to lay up for their parents, but parents for their children.* ¹⁵*I will most gladly spend and be spent for you. If I love you more, am I to be loved less?*

1 Corinthians 2:1-2: (NRSV) ¹*When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom.* ²*For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified.*

So what does it all mean?

Think about it...!