



What Makes a True Christian Leader? (Part I)

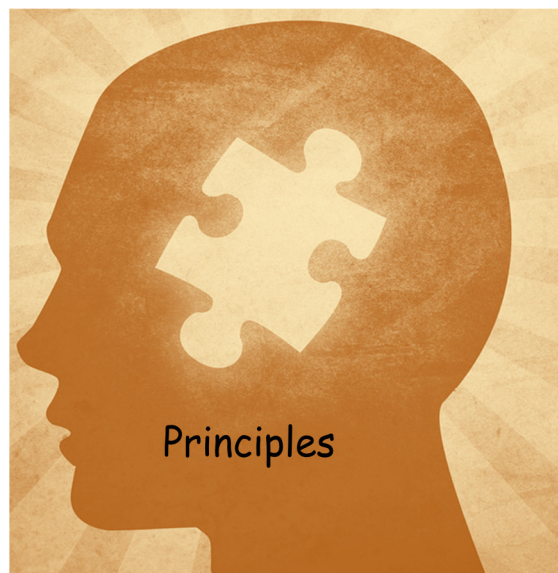
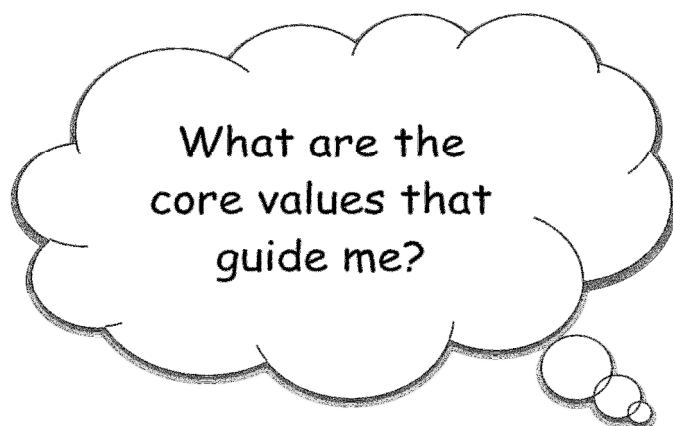
Matthew 20:26: (NASB) *It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant.*



Leadership - In today's world, it is one of the most important necessities of life and sadly it is one of the most absent aspects of life. Humanity needs leaders. We need leaders to show us a vision, to clear a path, to walk the path first and to thereby help us walk the path. Christians, just like humanity, need leaders as well. Sure, we have Jesus as the captain of our faith and sure, we have the Apostles, the twelve pillars of Christianity, but we also need those whose examples we can see, touch and relate to here and now, at the end of the age. So, what makes a Christian leader? Stay with us!

Leadership the Christian Way

Properly placing the pieces of the puzzle
The Personal Pieces #1: The Internal Puzzle



prin·ci·ple noun: a moral rule or belief that helps you know what is right and wrong and that influences your actions.

Compelling vision, *Servant Leadership*, Ken Blanchard

- *One is what business are you in? You know, I mean, why are you even doing what you're doing? OK, second is: if you do a good job in your business what will happen? Where are you going? The third is what's going to guide your journey? What are your values? So, a compelling vision tells you who you are, what business you are in, where you're going, which is your picture of the future. Then third, what will guide your journey, your values? And then once that's set, then the fourth one kicks in, which is the first secret to the One Minute Manager, which is what, goals? Because goals tell people what I want you to focus on right now.*



So, he's talking about the four parts of a compelling vision. We are not talking about a business, but we are in the business of talking about the gospel of Jesus Christ. We are not in the business of the gospel of Jesus Christ to make money; we are in the business of the gospel of Jesus Christ to praise God with the way we live, the things that we say and the spreading of the word.

If you do a good job, what's going to happen? What guides your journey? What are your values? Finally, what goals are you focusing on here and right now?

Leadership is action, not position.

Mark 12:28-31: (NASB) ²⁸One of the scribes came and heard them arguing, and recognizing that He had answered them well, asked Him, *What commandment is the foremost of all?* ²⁹Jesus answered, *the foremost is, Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is one Lord;* ³⁰*and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.* ³¹*The second is this, you shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.*

Jesus is giving us the action of the internal development of leadership.

What helps us to know what is right? Godly righteousness. Putting God first! This is the most basic principle we can adhere to!

Proverbs 4:23: *Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.*

Psalms 78:72: *With upright heart he shepherded them and guided them with his skillful hand.*

The common denominator in both of those scriptures is the heart.



It is no accident that we are constantly told to guard our heart, for it is through the heart that all good or evil comes to rest upon our lives!

Philippians 4:7: (NASB) *And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

The internal part of leadership is guarding the heart with Godly righteousness.

Principles: Love God with all your being. Guard the integrity of that love and learn to rest in its protection. These principles need to be driven by your heart. If they do not drive you, then you're not leading well.

Next, understand that true Christian leadership is expressed through action and not position.

Matthew 16:18: (NRSV) *And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.*

The name “Peter” means, “rock.” One of the traditional interpretations of this verse seems to indicate that Peter was to be the foundation of the Christian Church and therefore our leader. In some cases this leadership is believed to pass down through all the generations of Christianity. Is that what this Scripture is really saying? Within the Christian hierarchy is there a pre-determined approach with the Apostle Peter taking the lead above the other apostles? What does that Scripture really mean?



Peter: Strong's: #4074 Petros (pet'-ros); apparently a primary word; a (piece of) rock (larger than 3037); as a name, Petrus, an apostle:

KJV-- Peter, rock. Compare #2786. Always translated “Peter”

So, in Matthew 16:18, Peter is a name - a given name which signifies a rock. Does this mean that Peter is the “rock” that the church was to be built upon and therefore the leader from which all other leaders would come from? *Absolutely not! Why?*

The text again: Matthew 16:18: (NRSV) *And I tell you, you are **Peter <4074>**, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.*

The word *rock* in this verse is slightly different:

New American Standard Greek Lexicon: **Rock**: #4073, *petra*; a (large mass of) rock
NAS-rock (10), rocks (3), rocky (2).

So, how was this second word used elsewhere? **Peter** literally means a piece of rock, a smaller rock, not a large mass of rock:

Matthew 7:24: *Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a **rock <4073>**.*

1 Corinthians 10:4: *And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual **rock <4073>** that followed them: and that **rock <4073>** was Christ.*

Peter is a rock, but is not the rock upon which the Christian church is built. Jesus is. What did Peter say? *Thou art the Christ, the son of the living God.*

The Apostle Peter agreed that he was simply one of many leaders within the true church:



1 Peter 5:1-3: (KJV) ¹*The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: ²Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; ³Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.*

Christianity does have leadership built into it. How did the Apostle Peter view himself in terms of Christian leadership? He did view himself as a Christian leader. He was one of the twelve pillars of the Christian church. He was the outspoken spokesperson for the apostles. He played an enormously important role. Peter is saying to the others in 1 Peter 5:1-3, “I am just like you!”



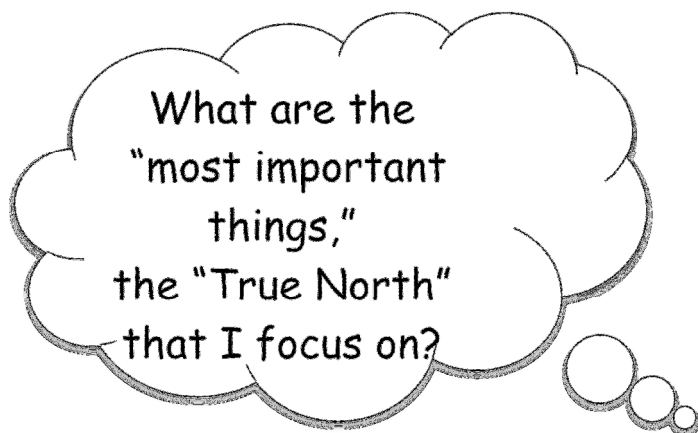
Peter tells them to feed the flock of God and do it because they *want* to do it. He shows us what the template of a true Christian leader ought to look like.

Additional principles for the Christian leader to apply, first within themselves: Abide by scriptural truth and do all with humility and zeal.

 **Trust, *The Essence of Leadership, Colin Powell***

- *My question is: How you would define the key characteristics of effective leadership that allow you to go and be an advocate for good?*
- *Trust. The longer I have been in public service and the more people that ask me about leadership over the years; leadership ultimately comes down to creating conditions of trust within an organization. Good leaders are people who are trusted by followers. Leaders take organizations past the level that science of management says is possible. One of my sergeants back in the infantry school at Fort Benning, almost 50 years ago, which is where I learned everything I ever got to learn about leadership, was at the infantry school. And he said to me one day, he said: "Lieutenant! You'll know you are a good leader when people follow you, if only out of curiosity."*

The Personal Pieces #2: The Internal Puzzle



pri-or-i-ty noun: something that is more important than other things and that needs to be done or dealt with first.

A compass always goes back to True North. Our leadership ought to always be going back to True North. Can we observe that in our Christian leaders? Can we observe that in ourselves if we suddenly find ourselves going in the wrong direction? Are you able to take out your personal compass and say, "okay, it's time to refocus, time to go this way...towards God...*True North?*"

"You must do the most important thing at any given moment."
--Tom Hopkins





Leaders consider the past, evaluate the present, and create the future.

2 Peter 1:4-8: (NASB) ⁴For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. ⁵Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence (your faith is the basis and upon that basis, now you must supply moral excellence. Leadership priorities are being described here.), and in your moral excellence, knowledge (it's great to have moral excellence, but you have to build knowledge upon that which you believe is right and correct.), ⁶and in your knowledge, self-control (based on the knowledge, you have to be able to be disciplined in the application of that knowledge so you can continue following the True North), and in your self-control, perseverance (pushing forward and not stopping), and in your perseverance, godliness (it's great to persevere, but how are you doing it?), ⁷and in your godliness (It goes back to righteous Godliness), brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love (we can be Godly and ignore our brother. You can be so focused and have tunnel vision. Don't have tunnel vision). ⁸For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Priority: To build a sound and spiritual inner man. These priorities from **2 Peter 1:4-8** will help you build a sound and spiritual inner man. Do all things to honor and glorify God. That is how we find our true Christian priority.

John 4:31-34: (NASB) ³¹Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, Rabbi, eat. ³²But He said to them, I have food to eat that you do not know about. ³³So the disciples were saying to one another, no one brought him anything to eat, did he? ³⁴Jesus said to them, my food is to do the will of Him who sent me and to accomplish His work.

Priority: To find ones nourishment in the service of God's will through self-sacrifice.

Law of intentionality, Interview with John Maxwell

- Give us a couple of them, just a sample.
- Well I am going to talk about the Law of Intentionality. The Law of Intentionality basically just says growth doesn't "just happen." So, I have observed many people who they just somehow think that if they just get up every day and go to work that they will grow automatically. And I know that problem because as a young person, that's what I felt. Until I had a man literally intersect my life and ask me what my plans for personal growth was, Mike, I didn't have a personal growth plan and didn't have a clue and I kind of stammered around a little bit. And then he told me. He said, "Growth is not an automatic process. You are going to have to do this intentionally." So I am going to talk about intentional growth.

Grow on purpose! You have to work at it. Don't be afraid to make mistakes. We learn some of our best lessons from some of the mistakes we make in life. Growth means that you are going to a place you have never been before.

1 Corinthians 9:16-19: (NASB) ¹⁶For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for I am under compulsion; for woe is me if I do not preach the gospel. ¹⁷For if I do this voluntarily, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have a stewardship entrusted to me. ¹⁸What then is my reward? That, when I preach the gospel, I may offer the gospel without charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel. ¹⁹For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I may win more.



Priority: Preach - spread the Gospel of our own free will! Apostle Paul preached from the heart. He considered it a privilege. His reward was not to be supported by his brethren. He chose to serve the brethren. He wanted it to be a free gift. His focus was on the Gospel. That is true Christian leadership!



A caller from Connecticut suggested: True Christian leadership is certified and legitimate when we have evidences that God leads the person. Our model is always the Lord Jesus. He was the primary example. I want to refer back to the program a few weeks ago on Joseph. Joseph was propelled to success by God's favor. That's how he became a leader in Egypt. Another one of my favorites is Solomon. In 1 Kings 3 it says that God chose Solomon, (remember the issue with the baby?). God answered his prayer on wisdom. Solomon was a great leader at the time until he became corrupt later on. The primary evidence of a great leader is the wisdom from God.

Joseph was a great example. The key is God's guidance in our life.

1 Timothy 5:8: (NASB) *But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*



Priority: Provide that which is necessary for those who depend upon you. Take care of your family! Take care of the things that must be taken care of first, and that is your *True North*.

Ephesians 5:25-29: (NASB) ²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, ²⁶so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. ²⁸So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; ²⁹for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church

Priority: Love your wife as Christ loves the church! Take care of that which is entrusted to you. *The two shall become one flesh.*

John 13:12-17: (NASB) ¹²So when he had washed their feet, and taken his garments and reclined at the table again, he said to them, Do you know what I have done to you? ¹³You call me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴If, I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. ¹⁶Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

Priority: Serve the brotherhood with all humility!

Jesus is showing them another priority of leadership. He showed them the example of taking care of the brotherhood by washing the Apostle's feet. What a great example of the priority of Christian leadership!





1 Peter 5:2: (NASB) *shepherd 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.*

Priority: Feed the flock!

The Personal Pieces #3: The Internal Puzzle



 **Never show hurt, *The Essence of Leadership, Colin Powell***

- *And so they would teach us at the infantry school: no matter how cold it is, Lieutenant, you must never look cold; no matter how hungry you all are, Lieutenant, you must never appear hungry; no matter how terrified you are, Lieutenant, you must never look terrified, because if you are scared, terrified, hungry, and cold, they will be scared, terrified, hungry and cold. I've gotten away with that many, many times in the course of my career, by being scared to death, cold, and wanting to go to sleep. But no, let's go, let's keep going, let's go around this corner. If only out of curiosity. And they will follow you into the darkest night, down the deepest valley, up the highest hill, if they trust you.*

Think about Jesus. He had physical human needs. He needed to rest and regroup. How many times in the scriptures did he try to go off and rest and the crowds would find him? Every time he would turn and have compassion on them and he would heal them. It didn't matter how tired he was. He always showed ever-present selfless benevolent love. Are we working on showing this quality in our own lives?

**Honor people and they will honor you.
Fail to honor people and they will fail to honor you.**

1 Thessalonians 5:12-24: (NASB) ¹²*But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, ¹³and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another.*



The Apostle is telling us: Brethren, those who have honored you by serving you, by teaching you, by feeding you the Gospel, by giving you direction, you need to honor back. They are doing it out of love.

He is breaking it down in terms of **performance**.

1 Thessalonians 5:14-24: (NASB) ¹⁴We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone. Are your eyes open to the conditions of the flock around you?

¹⁵See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people. With eyes wide open are you acting as a wise guide to the flock? Look and act! It is part of personal **performance**. What am I doing right now?



¹⁶Rejoice always. Do you have your mind ever set on seeing experiences from God's perspective? Everything God allows into our lives is for our good. Therefore, it is a reason to rejoice.

Hebrews 12:11: (KJV) Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

1 Thessalonians 5:17-19: (NASB) ¹⁷pray without ceasing.

Is your spiritual mind continually re-charging? Prayer is the best way that we can re-charge.

¹⁸in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

To live thankfully is to fulfill God's will. Can others SEE the thankfulness of your life?

¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit.

Are you listening for the spirit in you AND in others?

1 Timothy 4:11-16: (NASB) ¹¹Prescribe and teach these things. ¹²Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe. ¹³Until I come, give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and teaching. ¹⁴Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was bestowed on you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the presbytery. ¹⁵Take pains with these things; be absorbed in them, so that your progress will be evident to all. ¹⁶Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.

1 Thessalonians 5:20-21: (NASB) ²⁰do not despise prophetic utterances. ²¹But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good.

In your listening are you discerning as well? Don't just bide your time so that you can talk. Really listen! Others tend to follow you more readily if they know you are listening to them.



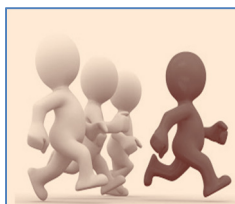
2 Timothy 2:15: (NASB) *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.*

We are talking about Christian leaders, but this applies to everyone. Every one of us is a leader.

1 Thessalonians 5:22: (NASB) *Abstain from every form of evil.*

Do you have a firm two-handed grip on righteousness?

Isaiah 33:14-15: (NASB) ¹⁴*Sinners in Zion are terrified; Trembling has seized the godless. Who among us can live with the consuming fire? Who among us can live with continual burning?* ¹⁵*He who walks righteously and speaks with sincerity, he who rejects unjust gain and shakes his hands so that they hold no bribe; He who stops his ears from hearing about bloodshed and shuts his eyes from looking upon evil.*



A simple leadership test: Turn around and see if anyone is following.

Are you working towards all of these things in your present **performance**?

If so, there is a great promise waiting for you:

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24: (NASB) *Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify (set you apart) you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.*

What a privilege to be set completely apart from the rest of the world for God's purpose! One last **performance** reminder - Revisiting a **Priority**: Serve the brotherhood with all humility!

John 13:12-17: (NASB) ¹²*So when he had washed their feet, and taken his garments and reclined at the table again, he said to them, do you know what I have done to you?* ¹³*You call me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. ¹⁶Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.*

And how did Jesus do them? Jesus is saying, let us take that **priority** and apply it to **performance**. If you know these things, it is wonderful, but you are blessed if you do them! That is the **performance** of leadership.

1 Corinthians 13:2: (NASB) *If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.*

The Apostle is telling us you can do these things in terms of **performance**, but having love is part of the **performance** equation. Love is not a feeling. Love is an action. Love is part of the **performance** of a true Christian and leader.



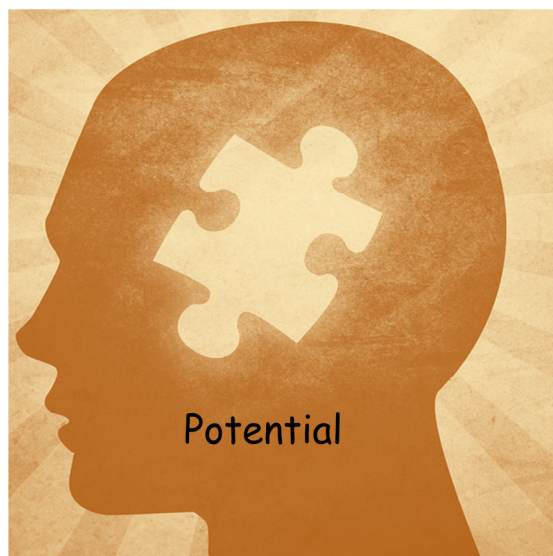
Weakness, Area of Choice, Interview with John Maxwell,

- *In areas of choice, you need to work on your weaknesses. For example, let's say I am lazy. That is an area of choice. I am not naturally lazy. I'm just lazy. It's a choice. So, I need to work on that. Because in areas of choices you can make vast improvement and you can make fast improvement.*



- *I have never heard this distinction, by the way. Hugely helpful.*
- *Oh yeah, in choices. So in attitude, let's say I have a lousy attitude. One day I wake up and I say, "This isn't getting me anywhere. I have got to have a good attitude." You can go from a zero to a ten, I mean almost overnight. You've seen people, you say "My gosh, overnight they just got good and happy." You know what I am saying? Yeah, okay. That's a choice. Vast, fast growth in choices.*

The Personal Pieces #4: The Internal Puzzle



We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence then, is not an act but a habit.

Excellence is usually elusive. It is most often only attainable as part of a journey to stretch one's self beyond one's present *perceived* capacity...this is how we develop **potential!**

Matthew 5:43-48: (NASB) ⁴³You have heard that it was said; You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy. ⁴⁴But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. ⁴⁶For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect (complete).

Here is excellence. Love your enemies! Be willing to give to them with no thought of getting back. Jesus didn't just die for good people. He died for everybody. To truly love one's enemies is a major step towards godliness... The greatest **potential** that we should strive for is to truly love our enemies.

This is what Jesus did:

Romans 5:6-8: (NASB) ⁶For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷For one will hardly die for a righteous man, though perhaps for the good man



someone would dare even to die. ⁸But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

This was awesome! This is the love of God that He sent Jesus. God was willing to send Jesus and Jesus willingly and freely died.

So, we see the ultimate growth potential is to love one's enemies. What about all the other areas of your life? If you are a leader, are you supposed to do everything well?



A caller from Connecticut suggests: The Christian is always the boss. He cannot blame the manager, the corporation, the spouse, the pastor or the president. Even though the Christian may not be in charge, they always have responsibility.



Weakness, Area of Giftedness, Interview with John Maxwell

- *In giftedness, DNA wiring, your growth is very, very small. And it's very slow. So, I think for an example a person can maybe increase their giftedness skill set maybe two numbers.*
- *Wow!*
- *So if I am a little above average I am a six, and if I really work hard, I can become an eight. But an eight is powerful. Eight has a huge return. So what I tell people is, in areas of giftedness that's where you have to work on your strengths. If I am a two in something, I am very weak in a skill, if I worked hard I could only become a four. I'd still be below average.*
- *It's not worth the effort. That's what I tell people. You've got to ask yourself: "Is it going to give me the return?" So in the area of strengths you've got to pour yourself into the things you are already good at because that will really set you apart from average.*

Find those things that The Lord has given you to use in his service and go for them.

1 Corinthians 1:26-31: (NASB) ²⁶For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; ²⁷but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, ²⁸and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, ²⁹so that no man may boast before God. ³⁰But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, ³¹so that, just as it is written, Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord.

Good news! This text is telling us that we have an abundant space to grow into! God judges us on the content of our character, not the content of our resume. Our potential therefore, is not out of our reach!

Ephesians 4:11-16: (NASB) ¹¹And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, ¹²for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; ¹³until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.



Notice - all these positions are for the purpose of creating a “mature man,” a collectively complete individual called the Body of Christ and not mature men plural, each standing on his own!

¹⁴As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; ¹⁵but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ.

So, growing up in Christ, even for leaders, is to grow into a strong functioning part that contributes its value mightily to the whole!

¹⁶from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

The lesson: Finding and growing towards your **potential** should not be a lonely road! We all have **potential**. Look in the mirror and see if you are focusing on the potential that God has given you.

Hebrews 12:1-3: (NASB) ¹Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

Potential demands that we run! This is an admonition given to every individual Christian.

²fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Potential demands that we see the prize!

³For consider him who has endured such hostility by sinners against himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Potential demands that we focus and meditate on that which gives us strength.





**So, what makes a true 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!**

A bit more on the scriptural reasoning that leadership within the true church does not pass through just the Apostle Peter...

Now, let's go back to the context of **Matthew 16:16** to see what Jesus is saying and test our conclusion:

Matthew 16:13-18: (NRSV) ¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, Who do people say that the Son of Man is? ¹⁴And they said, some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets. ¹⁵He said to them, but who do you say that I am? ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, you are the Messiah, the Son of the living God. ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.

Jesus himself is verifying that he is the sole foundation, the sole “rock” of the true church:

1 Corinthians 3:9-14: (NRSV) ⁹For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building. ¹⁰According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. ¹¹For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ. ¹²Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw ¹³the work of each builder will become visible, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each has done. ¹⁴If what has been built on the foundation survives; the builder will receive a reward.

So, according to the Bible, Jesus is the only foundation - but who leads in his absence?

1 Peter 5:1-4: (NKJV) ¹The 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: ²Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; ³nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; ⁴and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

Elders: A comprehensive position to oversee the flock of Jesus:

Elder: Strongs #4245 presbuteros (pres-boo'-ter-os); comparative of presbus (elderly); older; as noun, a senior; specifically, an Israelite Sanhedrist (also figuratively, member of the celestial council) or Christian "presbyter":

Greek English lexicon - selected definitions: 1) elder, of age, 2) a term of rank or office, 2a) among the Jews, 2a1) members of the great council or Sanhedrin (because in early times the rulers of the people, judges, etc., were selected from elderly men), 2a2) of those who in separate cities managed public affairs and administered justice, 2b) among the Christians, those who presided over the assemblies (or churches)-The New Testament uses the term bishop, elders, and presbyters interchangeably



Several quotes were taken from: <http://youtu.be/UhxINyIZ454>

More on this in Part III!

A text that clearly lays out the inter-relationship between body members of Christ - both leader and follower:

1 Corinthians 12:14-26 (NASB) ¹⁴For the body is not one member, but many. ¹⁵If the foot says, because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body, it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear says, because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body, it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired. ¹⁹If they were all one member, where would the body be? ²⁰But now there are many members, but one body. ²¹And the eye cannot say to the hand, I have no need of you; or again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. ²²On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary; ²³and those members of the body which we deem less honorable, on these we bestow more abundant honor, and our less presentable members become much more presentable, ²⁴whereas our more presentable members have no need of it. But God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that member which lacked, ²⁵so that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

One of several admonishing texts that refer to the responsibilities of leaders of the flock:

Titus 1:7-14: ⁷For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, ⁸but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. ⁹He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it. ¹⁰For there are many who are insubordinate, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision party. ¹¹They must be silenced, since they are upsetting whole families by teaching for shameful gain what they ought not to teach. ...

A “sneak peak” at Part II!



Leadership the Christian Way. Properly placing the pieces of the puzzle Part II The Public Pieces: The Interactive Puzzle

- **Participation - Whom do I interact with and how do I feel that interaction?**
Authority is a poor substitute for leadership.
- **Patience - How well am I guiding individuals towards their best growth?**
Never tell people how to do things. Tell them what to do and they will surprise you with their ingenuity.
- **Passion - Is my example one of authority or authentic action?**
If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.
- **Pro-activity - Do I preach teach and exude perception and preparedness?**
A leader is someone who believes in you and gets you to believe in yourself.