

## Principles And A Call To Leadership

*Webster* defines a leader as “one who leads; a commander.” There is a real need in the hour that we are living in for true leadership. Someone who will lead through action and as an example to others. Many people want an exalted position or title, but few want the responsibility or accountability that comes with it. Unaccountability can make a man too independent. The danger is that on one hand he could live a life that is completely unrestrained and undisciplined or on the other hand he could become a tyrant or dictator instead of a godly leader.

A true leader will be accountable for his life and actions. His life will be governed by biblically oriented convictions. He will pay his bills, keep his word, and raise his children in the fear of God. He will be ever faithful to the things of God.

A leader cannot afford to be lazy. He must be dependable. Proverbs 10:26 says, “As vinegar to the teeth, and as smoke to the eyes, so *is* the sluggard to them that send him.” A pastor desperately needs men he can count on. Men he can depend on to finish any given task. Proverbs 25:19 says, “ Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble *is like* a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint.”

A leader must have credibility. This cannot be demanded; it must be earned. A credible man is a man of his word; he cannot be a liar. He must prove himself by living a godly life before God and man. For example, just because a man has the ability to preach, sing, or play an instrument, does not mean he should not be held accountable for the way he lives. A true leader will be a submitted man.

A leader must be a man of principles and convictions. Men who operate or preach without having godly convictions are like “clouds and wind without rain.” An unprincipled man should never get licensed to preach. Any man that would step into the pulpit without a strong and solid belief in this precious one God, new birth, and holiness message is an unprincipled man. It is more important that

we exalt principles and godly character than oratory abilities. Men who adhere to principles become good leaders.

Biblical principles are the best examples to follow and adhere to. There are other good and practical principles and pieces of advice that can help make the man a good leader. Too many men have lived a misspent life and have never seen what they could have accomplished in God because they simply did not have principles.

The following list of principles was given to President Garfield when he was a youth:

1. Never be idle.
2. Make few promises.
3. Always speak the truth.
4. Live within your income.
5. Never speak evil of anyone.
6. Keep good company or none.
7. Live up to your engagements.
8. Never play games of chance.
9. Drink no intoxicating drinks.
10. Good character is above everything else.
11. Keep your own secrets, if you have any.
12. Never borrow if you can possibly help it.
13. Do not marry until you are able to support a wife.
14. When you speak to a person, look into his eyes.

15. Save when you are young to spend when you are old.
16. Never run into debt unless you see a way out again.
17. Good company and good conversation are the sinews of virtue.
18. Your character cannot be essentially injured except by your own acts.
19. If anybody speaks evil of you, let your life be so that no one believes him.
20. When you retire at night, think about what you have done during the day.
21. If your hands cannot be employed usefully, attend to the culture of your mind.
22. Read the above carefully and thoughtfully at least once a week.

These personal principles were given to him by an elder friend and he cherished them all the days of his life.

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