

Pervert Exposed - Leadership

Today I'm wrapping up the series "Pervert Exposed" where we are exposing satan's perversion of things God made for good. We've covered Sex, Marriage & the Rainbow, Beauty & Attraction, Grace, Love, The Church, and today Leadership. If you've missed any of these please go to our website freedomreignsinchrist.org and check them out. I purposefully preached them in the order I did because while they are each independent messages, they build upon one another.

satan is a liar, he twists and perverts everything that God creates for good. The purpose of doing this is to distract us from Christ. All good things lead to Jesus, so satan tries to lead people astray getting our focus on anything but Jesus.

In satan's perversions he leads people away from the right course by deliberately distorting truth and by doing this he lead people into mental error and false judgement. Look up the word pervert....that's what you'll find.

Today we focus on leadership. How many of you consider yourself a leader? Probably not very many. How many of you raised your hand because you knew I expected you to raise your hand (elders, deacons, ministry leaders)?

This is a fairly simple message today but I think it is going to be liberating to some and hopefully motivating to all!

I've been blessed to have some great leaders in my life. While I haven't had many really bad leaders directly over me, I've seen plenty of bad leadership as well....there is a real leadership problem in our country and it's because of a poor understanding of what leadership really requires of us.

Too many people view leadership as a position by which they obtain power....."now we can do things MY way". Leadership is NOT about power and position. Leadership is not at all about flexing your muscles and showing your power....it requires humility and servanthood.

To Lead means to go before or with to show the way, to escort, to conduct by holding and guiding

Many of the best leaders in history put others first Mother Theresa, Nelson Mandela, MLK

The worst leaders in history were tyrants who ruled with control and fear.....Joseph Stalin, Adolf Hitler, Fidel Castro, Saddam Hussein.

Leadership is supposed to be a good thing but it's only a good thing when it's a selfless thing!

satan has perverted leadership to be about power and greed when God created it to be about love and sacrifice!

Lies about leadership:

- I don't have leadership qualities
- I'm more of a follower
- Leaders have to be mean, overbearing
- Leaders have to have all the good ideas

I'm not going to dispel these lies one by one but as we look at biblical leadership, you will see what God desires of you, you will see these lies and others that you may think of, they will be exposed in truth!

A Christian by definition is a follower.....a follower of Christ. But did you also know that a Christian is a leader? As we follow Jesus we are supposed to be leading others to Him! If we don't then we are not doing what Jesus has called us to do!

Matthew 28:19-20 (NKJV)

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

GO....make disciples....LEAD OTHERS.....this means YOU! Don't you dare sit there and claim the promises of God for your life but reject the commands of God for your life. You get all or nothing. One of my favorite sayings "*The Bible is not a bag of trail mix. You can't just pick out the pieces you like and ignore the rest.*"

So GO....Everyone is called to lead someone....but God is a God of order!

- Husband, wife, child
- Pastor/elders, deacons, ministry leaders, congregation
- Manager, team leader, technician
- Doctor, nurse, nurse's assistant
- Superintendent, principal, teacher, student

On and on.....order is important but even if you are at the "bottom" at the very least you are called to lead your peers! Everybody's leading someone!

Look at the qualities that we see in the leaders of the bible:

- Abraham lived by faith, embracing the unknown
- Noah did what was right even with little to no support
- Moses stood up for his people
- Joshua led by example
- Joseph endured difficult circumstances
- David was not afraid of the biggest challenges
- Daniel was bold and didn't fear consequences

- John the Baptist was not afraid to call people out
- Peter recovered from failure
- Paul was passionate for what he believed in
- Jesus was a servant

That is our focus today, our Lord, our Savior, the one we follow, the one we lead others to, how to we lead like Him?

Mark 10:45 (NKJV)

45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

I’m talking about the King of Kings and Lord of Lords! He came to serve, to be an example of servant leadership. You lead people by showing the way not pointing the way. Jesus modeled this for us....

Philippians 2:5-8 (NKJV)

5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

You consider the most famous, important, person in the world giving up his throne, his position to get his hands dirty and instead of pointing the way, showing the way.....there’s no way! Who would do that? Who gives up power, fame, fortune to serve others? Who gives up a crown of gold for a crown of thorns? Who gives up a throne on high to be lifted high on a cross? JESUS....that’s who!

Listen, when we say Lord of lords and King of kings.....don’t let that become common of insignificant.

- Lord of lords means that Jesus is the ruler of ALL rulers, He has authority, control, and power over all those who have authority, control, and power!
- King of kings means Jesus reigns eternally over all temporary reigns on this earth. Kings are removed by force or death but Jesus has already overcome death and has a name that is above all names...HE CAN’T BE DETHRONED!

But while He was here on this earth, He was leading us by example, showing us the way....

John 13:13-15 (NKJV)

13 You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. 14 If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. 15 For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.

He says "Follow Me", "Do as I have done to you"

Could you give up your throne to help someone else? Instead of looking down upon those in need, could you show them the way? Could you forget power and position and instead lead by love and sacrifice?

In Mark 9 we see Jesus teaching the disciples this model of sacrificial leadership:

Mark 9:33-35 (NKJV)

33 Then He came to Capernaum. And when He was in the house He asked them, "What was it you disputed among yourselves on the road?" 34 But they kept silent, for on the road they had disputed among themselves who would be the greatest. 35 And He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all."

The disciples are arguing who would be the greatest. The twelve men who spent day and night with Jesus who was the living walking example of servant leadership.....and they are disputing which of them would be known as the greatest....what a bunch of knuckleheads!

This should go to show you right here what Romans 3:23 tells us "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God". Stop beating yourself up over your failures, even those closest to God fall short and fail. GET BACK UP.....TRY AGAIN!

So the twelve knuckleheads are had this dispute (they were all wrong, Paul was the greatest....jk) But Jesus says "If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all."

Servant of who? ALL!

How many of you have ever realized you are called to be servant of ALL? Some are thinking "Now wait a minute.....so I'm supposed to serve everyone I know? Am I now a slave or what?" Who is thinking along those lines?

Others are thinking " YES, my husband, wife, boss, pastor, teacher, fill in the blank, has to do what I want, they have to serve me!" Who is thinking along those lines?

You are both wrong! Jesus said "If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all." The Greek word for servant here is diakonos (dē-ä'-ko-nos) meaning one who executes the commands of another, esp. of a master, servant of a king

You are to be a servant of all.....by doing what the King...Jesus....commands you to do for them! You see the common theme in this series? It's not about you, it's not about the people

you serve, it's about Jesus. You serve others by doing what Jesus commands. Satan does anything he can to take the focus off of Jesus and put it on ourselves!

Leadership requires servanthood, and servanthood requires humility. How humbling it is to be in charge, to be the boss, but know that you are not really in charge! You are either submitted to Jesus and He is in charge, or you are not submitted to Jesus and Satan is in charge.

Aside from realizing you are not really in charge, a huge part of humility in leadership is heeding the advice of others, seeking wise counsel and then acting upon it. Look at Moses in Exodus 18:

Exodus 18:13-23 (NKJV)

13 And so it was, on the next day, that Moses sat to judge the people; and the people stood before Moses from morning until evening. 14 So when Moses' father-in-law saw all that he did for the people, he said, "What is this thing that you are doing for the people? Why do you alone sit, and all the people stand before you from morning until evening?" 15 And Moses said to his father-in-law, "Because the people come to me to inquire of God. 16 When they have a difficulty, they come to me, and I judge between one and another; and I make known the statutes of God and His laws." 17 So Moses' father-in-law said to him, "The thing that you do is not good. 18 Both you and these people who are with you will surely wear yourselves out. For this thing is too much for you; you are not able to perform it by yourself. 19 Listen now to my voice; I will give you counsel, and God will be with you: Stand before God for the people, so that you may bring the difficulties to God. 20 And you shall teach them the statutes and the laws, and show them the way in which they must walk and the work they must do. 21 Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them to be rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. 22 And let them judge the people at all times. Then it will be that every great matter they shall bring to you, but every small matter they themselves shall judge. So it will be easier for you, for they will bear the burden with you. 23 If you do this thing, and God so commands you, then you will be able to endure, and all this people will also go to their place in peace."

Godly leaders seek wise counsel, and godly leaders realize they can't lead alone! Every great leader has an even better team around them! If you don't you won't make it, you will wear out, you will fail, you won't move forward.

This applies in your household, your workplace, your church, you name it. I want people that are smarter than me on my team. I want people with opinions that are different than mine on my team. I want people that are strong where I am weak on my team. This applies here at the church and in every other area of my life!

Once Jesus ascended to heaven and the church was booming, look at how the twelve chose their team:

Acts 6:2-4 (NKJV)

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. 3 Therefore, 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; 4 but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

The twelve said "give me the best!" They wanted the best seven they had, good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit, full of wisdom, and look what they did with those seven (even wondered why the twelve replaced themselves with only seven?) They made those seven the leaders of the ministry.

They said "You seven, lead the rest"Leaders produce more leaders! Who did they choose leaders from.....servants. Godly leadership is servant leadership!

We are all called to leadership. Whatever your area of influence is.....you are a leader...called to obey the King, Jesus, by loving people, leading them to Him.

To lead people to Jesus you have to believe the Kingdom is bigger than YOU! Almost all Christians will tell you they believe that but the way they live says otherwise. When God's work becomes "my church, my ministry, my glory" our actions are saying the Kingdom is about us.....instead of it being about Jesus!

Don't set yourself up for the fall that comes with pride! Ask God to show you when ego takes control in your life.

Things that have no place in leadership are fear tactics, creating division, arrogance, unwillingness to change, and a lack of integrity!

It's time for God's people to start being the leaders that He has called us to be!

MEN....HUSBANDS.....grow up....put on your big boy pants and be the man of your house.

- lead your wives, sacrificially laying down your life for her
 - it's not about who is "more spiritual" you both have the same Holy Spirit in you, it's about God's order and He says the husband is to be head of the wife
 - The bible says she is the weaker vessel, this doesn't mean she is incapable or unable, it means God created her to have a covering, a protector, a leader! Stop letting her take the lead a do YOUR job!
 - remember to lead sacrificially, with humility, not with tyranny!
- lead your children by example, with love and discipline, if you want your son to be a man of God, show him how!
 - watch your mouth, guard your eyes, teach repentance and forgiveness
 - In doing so you will lead him to be a godly man and husband someday

WOMEN.....WIVES....

- accept your God given leadership role in supporting your husband, encourage and build him up.
 - this doesn't mean you are less, it doesn't mean men are better or greater. God created women to be the support
- lead your children by example, with love and discipline, if you want your daughter to be a woman of God, show her how!
 - dress modestly, be confident in who you are, stay away from gossip
 - In doing so you will lead her to be a godly woman and wife someday

If you are a leader at church or work.....lead with integrity.....integrity is more than doing the right thing.....integrity is doing the right thing even when nobody's watching!

Proverbs 4:20-21 (NLT)

20 My child, pay attention to what I say.

Listen carefully to my words.

21 Don't lose sight of them.

Let them penetrate deep into your heart,

Proverbs 23:26 (NLT)

26 O my son, give me your heart.

May your eyes take delight in following my ways.