

## **Leadership – Part 2 – FAQ**

**6/15/2025**

What are the three core characteristics of a Christian leader?

A Christian leader, which is interchangeable with being a Christian in general, should embody integrity, self-awareness, and effective communication. Integrity means being true to your word, living a Christian life if you claim to be a Christian, and carrying these qualities beyond the church doors to be a "light" in the world. Self-awareness involves asking God to reveal your shortcomings and areas where you need to improve, understanding your capabilities, and being humble enough to seek divine guidance. Communication, especially with God, is paramount as it provides the strength, wisdom, and knowledge needed for all interactions. This also includes being aware of non-verbal cues like body language.

How does biblical accountability function for a Christian, both to God and to others?

Biblical accountability encompasses two main areas: accountability to God and accountability to people. Accountability to God means recognizing that every action and thought will be judged by Him, leading to a commitment to live according to His will and pursue spiritual growth. This understanding is rooted in God's omniscience and the certainty of future judgment for all. Accountability to one another within the Christian community involves committing to like-minded individuals who can offer guidance, call out missteps, and provide support. This mutual accountability is crucial for growth, bearing one another's burdens, forgiving each other, and fostering a healthy church environment, exemplified by various New Testament scriptures emphasizing love, kindness, and mutual edification.

Why is having a vision important for a Christian leader, and how should it be developed?

A Christian leader must possess a vision, defined as a spiritual or prophetic insight into the future, encompassing long-term plans and ideals. This vision should not be based on personal ambition alone, but must be cross-referenced with God's will to ensure it is fruitful and blessed. The example of Zechariah is used, who received eight visions after he faithfully delivered God's initial message to the people, calling them to repent and return to Him. This illustrates that God grants visions to those He trusts to be His messengers, and they are always aligned with His divine purpose. A true vision will lead to God's blessing, while visions not rooted in His will are destined to fail.

How does Zechariah's message to his people relate to breaking generational curses and returning to God?

Zechariah's message to his people begins by highlighting how their ancestors' angering the Lord led them to their current situation. He urges them to "return to me, says the Lord of hosts, and I will return to you." This emphasizes that no matter the severity of past sins or how far one has strayed, God is eager to reconcile. Zechariah also explicitly tells them "do not be like your fathers," highlighting the concept of generational curses – negative patterns inherited from previous generations. By pointing out the mistakes of their ancestors, Zechariah encourages the people to break these cycles and seek a better path through repentance and returning to God, who remains steadfast and close, always ready to receive them back.

What is the significance of good decision-making for a Christian leader, and where does wisdom for it come from?

Good decision-making is vital for a Christian leader because their choices have a significant impact, either positive or negative, on themselves and those they lead. The Bible provides numerous examples of both poor (e.g., David, Saul, Samson, Eve, Judas, Aaron, Lot's wife) and good (e.g., Paul, the disciples, Mary, Daniel, Jesus) decision-makers. Learning from these examples is key. Ultimately, the ability to make good decisions stems from gaining wisdom, as Proverbs 4:7 states: "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding." This wisdom, obtained from God, allows leaders to apply it to their lives, make better choices, and ultimately bring glory back to God.

What does "servanthood" mean for a Christian leader, according to Matthew 20:26-28?

According to Matthew 20:26-28, Jesus teaches that to be a great leader, one "must be your servant." This teaching emerged when two disciples, through their mother, sought positions of greatness. Jesus did not rebuke their desire for greatness but redefined it. He clarified that in the world, people often chase greatness by stepping on others, but in His kingdom, greatness is achieved through serving. A Christian leader must prioritize serving others and God first, rather than seeking personal gain or exercising privileges without a good reason. This includes acts like praying for others, checking on them, offering encouragement, sharing scripture, forgiving, showing grace, and mercy.

How does the concept of "chasing greatness" in the world differ from Christian servanthood?

In the world, "chasing greatness" often involves stepping on others, prioritizing self-interest, and exercising power without genuine reason. This worldly pursuit can lead to pride and a disregard for the well-being of others. In contrast, Christian servanthood, as taught by Jesus, encourages the pursuit of greatness but redefines it as putting others and God first. It means serving with humility, not complacency, and loving others along the way. Jesus did not condemn the desire for greatness

itself, but emphasized that true greatness in His kingdom is achieved through selfless service, demonstrating love, grace, and mercy to those being led.

What are the practical implications of these leadership characteristics for daily Christian life?

These leadership characteristics – integrity, self-awareness, communication, accountability, vision, good decision-making, and servanthood – are not exclusive to formal leaders but are essential for every Christian in their daily lives. They encourage living authentically, seeking God's guidance for personal growth, maintaining strong relationships through open communication, embracing mutual accountability within the faith community, having a God-given purpose, making wise choices that honor God, and serving others selflessly. Exercising these characteristics allows Christians to be a "light" in their communities and spheres of influence, glorifying God in every aspect of their lives.