

1. Definition:

- a. Leadership is the art of influencing, guiding, and directing individuals in such a way as to obtain their willing obedience, confidence, respect, and loyal cooperation in order to accomplish an objective, mission, or goal.
- b. Leadership is the exercise and proper function of authority within its sphere of influence.
 - (1) Leadership is active rather than passive.
 - (2) Leadership provides for order (chain of command) and organization (internal working relationships).
 - (3) Leadership is developed through training over time which yields capacity.
Training + Time = Capacity
- c. Christian leaders must have as their **first priorities: obedience to God's word and consistent prayer.** (Heb. 4:12; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17; 2:15; Eph. 6:18; 1 Thess. 5:17, 18)

2. Vocabulary:

- a. אָשַׁר - 'ashar - (Hebrew verb) - to go straight, to lead, to guide (Isa. 3:12; Isa. 9:16)
- b. דָּרַךְ - darak - (Heb. vb.) -to walk to lead (Prov. 4:11; Isa. 42:16)
- c. יָבַל - yabal - (Heb. vb.) -to lead along (Isa. 55:12; Jer. 31:9)
- d. נָהַג - nahag - (Heb. vb.) - to lead, to guide, to conduct (Ex. 3:1; Psa. 80:1; Isa, 49:10)
- e. נָחַח - nachah - (Heb. vb.) - to lead, to guide, to conduct (Gen. 24:27; Ex. 13:17; Psa. 5:8; cf. points g, j, and k below)
- f. נָגִיד - nagid - (Heb. noun.) - captain, leader, Messiah (Isa. 55:4)
- g. ἄγω - ago - (Greek verb) - to bear, to carry, to lead (Rom. 8:14; Gal. 5:18, "led by the *Holy Spirit*" cf. point (e) for נָחַח in the LXX, the *Septuagint*)
- h. ἡγεομαι – hegeomai - (Gk. v.) - to lead, to guide (Heb. 13:7, 17, 24)
- i. καθηγητής - kathegetes - (Greek noun) - leader (found two times in the New Testament, Matt. 23:10)
- j. καθεγεομαι - kathegeomai - (Gk. v.) - to lead the way, to act as a guide.
(*not found* in the New Testament; cf. point (e) above for נָחַח in LXX)
- k. ὁδηγέω - hodegeo - (Gk. v.) - to lead, to guide the way (Jn. 16:13 - "the Spirit of Truth will lead you;" Matt. 15:14 - "the blind leading the blind;" cf. Lk. 6:39; Acts 8:31; cf. point (e) above for נָחַח in LXX)
- l. ὁδηγός - hodegos- (Gk. n.) - leader, guide (Matt. 23:23, 24; Rom. 2:19)
- m. πλανᾶω - planao - (Gk. v.) - to lead astray, to mislead, to deceive
(Matt. 24:4, 5, 11, 24)
- n. προίστημι - proistemi - (Gk. v.) - to stand before, hence, to lead (Rom. 12:8; 1 Tim. 5:17)

3. While leadership can be developed through self and group discipline and recognition of authority under the principles of the laws of divine establishment, leadership is best developed through the spiritual advance of the individual believer priest studying, believing, and applying God's word on a consistent and continual basis throughout his life. (Heb. 4:12; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17; 2 Tim. 2:15; 2 Pet. 3:18)

4 Leadership is most clearly seen in the sovereign heads of national entities and among the general staff of military organizations.

Principle: Political and military leadership is an index of national character and historic trends. (Psalm 2:10; Prov. 14:34)

5. Thirty characteristics of leadership:

These are **personal qualities or traits** which are **essential for leaders** at all levels for gaining the willing obedience, confidence, respect, and loyal cooperation of other people to fulfill a mutual objective or reach a goal. (1 Tim. 5:17)

- (1) **Supervisory ability** – a leader's ability to check, assess, and discern the progress and actions of others under his authority without undue harassment. He must be a "People" person. (Phil. 1:9, 10; Titus 1:5)
- (2) **Problem solving ability** – (Titus 1:5)
 - a. Recognizing the problem or situation by getting the full details.
 - b. Making an estimate of the situation and examining the alternatives and possible ramifications of various possible decisions.
 - c. Taking action or appropriate steps in order to carry out the desired decision.
- (3) **Discipline** – a leader must be able to function under self and group-discipline. Sports, especially team athletics, and military training are of tremendous value in developing such discipline. (1 Cor. 9:25; Gal. 5:23; 2 Tim. 1:7; Titus 1:8; 2 Pet. 1:6)
- (4) **Understanding the team concept** – a leader must recognize that nothing is ever accomplished without the help of others. (1 Cor. 12:12-27)
- (5) **Understanding the importance of leadership** – a leader must recognize that the greatness of the team and the success of the endeavor is in the greatness of his example. (John 14:12; 1 Cor. 11:1; 4:1-6; 1 Thess. 1:6; 2 Thess. 3:7-9)
- (6) **Self-esteem, self-worth, and humility** – a leader must recognize his own character in terms of his strengths,(talents, skills, and abilities), and his weaknesses or limitations. This is genuine humility. (Prov. 18:12b; Rom. 3: 23: Rom. 4:3-6; 12:3; Matt. 10:31; Luke 12:7)
- (7) **Integrity, moral courage** – a leader must have the moral courage to make difficult decisions and set policies and then accept the responsibility for these decisions and policies. (Josh. 1:6, 7, 9; Prov. 20:7; 2 Cor. 5:6-8; 2 Pet. 1:5)

- (8) **Sense of responsibility** – a leader must have a sense of responsibility with regard to his decisions and policies, his accomplishment of goals and objectives, and the welfare of the individuals on his team. He must have a sense of what is right and a sense of justice, impartiality, and fairness in dealing with all personnel regardless of personal prejudice. This is “Tough Love.” (Phil. 2:3, 4)
- (9) **Objective thinking** – a leader must be clear, concise, and objective in his thinking. (Phil. 2:5)
- (10) **Stability** – a leader must have stability of character in his soul; that is, he must be inflexible in the essentials of truth. (1 Pet. 5:10; Col. 2:7; Titus 2:1, 15)
- (11) **Flexibility** – a leader must be flexible in his policies yet without compromising his principles or beliefs. (1 Cor. 9:19-23)
- (12) **Composure** – a leader must be able to remain calm and composed under stress and pressure. He must be able to maintain a relaxed mental attitude (R.M.A.) as well as a positive mental attitude (P.M.A.). For the believer in Jesus Christ, this means freedom from mental attitude sins (M.A.S.) and being controlled by the principles of Bible doctrine including the laws of divine establishment and by the Holy Spirit of God. (Isa. 53:7; Acts 8:32; 16:25)
- (13) **Confidence** – a leader must have confidence in his leadership ability; he must know what he is doing. (Acts 4:17; 13:46)
 - (a) Confidence is not arrogance; rather, confidence comes through knowledge, training, and preparation over a prolonged period of time.
 - (b) Arrogance, on the other hand, comes through ignorance, fear, and the lust pattern of our old sin nature (O.S.N.). Arrogance can take a great leader and turn him into a tyrant. (Dan. 3:1-6, Nebuchadnezzar)
- (14) **Common sense and good judgment** – a leader must have good judgment and common sense. The book of Proverbs in the Bible is a summary of common sense. (Prov. 21:3; 29:4)
- (15) **Sense of humor** – a leader must have a sense of humor which is tension relieving and indicative of a relaxed mental attitude. (Prov. 17:22)
- (16) **Loyalty** – a leader demonstrates loyalty, dedication, and devotion to duty, purpose, to personnel, and he must recognize authority wherever it is found. However, loyalty must always be to principle first. (Psa. 31:23; Prov. 20:6; 28:20)
Note: These characteristics are rarely found in times of national degeneration and historic downturns.
- (17) **True sensitivity** – a leader must demonstrate true sensitivity to the needs and feelings of others. (Phil. 2:3, 4)

- (18) **Executive ability** – a leader must have executive ability to delegate authority, to organize, to categorize, to synthesize (combine parts so as to form a whole), and to systematize (to arrange methodically). (Titus 1:5)
- (19) **Inspirational** – a leader must inspire rather than impress. He must motivate, encourage, challenge, edify, and stimulate people to action. (Rom. 14:19; 1 Cor. 10:23; Eph. 4:12, 29).
- (20) **Good health** – a leader must have and maintain good health and understand how to maintain good health and physical fitness. (Dan. 1:12; 1 Tim. 4:8)
- (21) **Stamina and endurance** - a leader must have stamina and endurance, the ability and good health to stick with a project to its conclusion. (2 Tim. 2:3, 10; 4:5)
- (22) **Emotional stability, nervous stability, and mental toughness** – a leader must always be in control of his emotions. His mentality must control his emotions. However, the emotions are legitimate responders to the stimulus perceived by the mentality. (2 Cor. 6:5; 10:5)
- (23) **Courage** – a leader must recognize fear or danger or criticism, but be able to meet the danger or opposition with calmness and firmness. (Psa. 31:24)
- (24) **Initiative** – a leader must see what needs to be done and begin a course of action to do it. (James 1:21-25)
- (25) **Knowledge** – a leader must have acquired the necessary professional knowledge in his field of expertise, but he must continue to be a student, constantly learning. (Hosea 4:6; 2 Tim. 2:2; Titus 2:1)
- (26) **Tact** – a leader must have the ability to deal with others who are often difficult without creating offense, if at all possible. (Rom. 12:17, 18)
- (27) **Unselfish** – a leader must avoid selfish motivation, seeking personal comfort or personal advancement at the expense of others. (2 Cor. 12:17, 18; Phil. 2:3)
- (28) **Setting the example** – a true leader must set the example in all areas of his life Twenty-four hours a day. (1 Cor. 4:16; 11:1)
- (29) **Bearing** – a leader must bear or conduct himself with:
- a. Poise – balance, dignity, assurance
 - b. Carriage – posture, deportment
 - c. Presence – an air of rapport between the leader and his personnel
 - d. Courtesy – mutual respect and consideration for others
 - e. Flair and appearance – a discriminating sense, a distinct quality, good taste
 - f. Good manners – prevalent rules of social conduct

- (30) **Service** – a leader must always remember his position is established and maintained by God. (Rom. 13:1) Jesus Christ as the **God-Man Savior** is the greatest leader in history and is our example (John 13:5-15); and He said He came to serve. (Mark 10:45) Therefore, anyone who is first or great must be a servant of all. (Mark 10:43, 44; also Mk. 9:35; 10:31; Matt. 20:26-28)
Note: We must imitate the one leader-servant, Jesus Christ. (Matt. 23:10-12)