

Course 114

Leadership in the Household of Faith

An apostolic teaching of the Global School of Ministry - UK

This course will be delivered against the back-drop of an understanding of the difference between the Church and the World. Thus, principles and practices the world holds dear, such as the concept of the leader as Chief Executive who literally owns the vision and has others coming to help achieve his personal goals will be x-rayed to reveal their hollowness, vis-à-vis the Church.

The course will thus reveal that the Church is inherently a “WE” and “OURS”, rather than a “me” and “mine” construct. If this is so, how can we regain the principle of the Church as a functional living organism? In order to do justice to the issue of leadership, it is necessary to first grasp the concept of the Church as a living organism rather than a dead religious organization. It is appropriate therefore to lay a basic foundation by taking substantial excerpts from Course on The Church.

Reasons for seeking an understanding of the divine plan of God for the Church.

Everything created by God is for a specific purpose. For that purpose to be achieved, it is imperative for the creation to discover, accept and remain in the centre of the divine master plan. When the Lord gave Moses instructions to build an earthly tabernacle and Ark of the Covenant, He gave express instructions, down to minute details and commanded Moses, several times, not to deviate by an inch from the pattern he was shown on the Mount. **Exodus 25:40; Exodus 26:1-37; Exodus 27:1-21.**

By the same measure and even to a greater degree, the Lord requires those who say they are ministers of the gospel to be careful how they build the Church in order to conform to the master plan He laid out. If an earthly tabernacle required great care to build, much more does the Body of Christ require greater care? The Lord will on the last day put His plumb line to the work of all who claimed to be His servants. Then, when it is too late to make amends, it will be discovered that some will receive commendation for building with **Gold, Silver and Precious Stones** while others will discover, to their ignominy, that they deserve condemnation for building with base materials classified as **Wood, Hay and Stubble. 1 Corinthians 3:5-15.** Thus, in the last day, the last shall be first while the first shall be last. An usher who served faithfully; a widow who though unsung faithfully cleaned toilets in the great crusades in her city may get to heaven to receive crowns of glory and honour while great and mighty men and women of God barely manage to squeeze into the Kingdom because they built their ministries for fame, money and other base motives, using worldly methods. God is not mocked and is not obligated to accept and reward works performed in disobedience to His clear directives!

What the True Church is Not: *The true Church of Jesus Christ is not any of these things:*

1. A building. A building does not make a church. A building can offer a religious identity but is not necessarily the church in itself.
2. A denomination or sect. A denomination or sect is a man made religious organization based on a human interpretation of some aspects of the Word of God
3. A racial, cultural or ethnic enclave. A church is not a gathering of people from an exclusive segment of humanity such as a racial, cultural or ethnic group.

What then is The Church? The Church is the totality of human beings who put their trust for salvation in Jesus Christ of Nazareth, relying on the shedding of His blood as the basis of their righteousness. The Church was conceived before the foundation of the world for it was in that time that the Lamb was deemed as slain (Revelation 13:8). Jesus came to demonstrate the basis of the Church which is the unconditional love of God showered on undeserving humanity. **Romans 5:6-11.**

Of all the biblical descriptions of The Church, three particularly stand out, namely:

1. **The Body of Christ** – This immediately conjures the image of an organic whole which is complete only when connected to its Head, even the Lord Jesus Christ and with one another. - We thus receive the firm revelation that Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church. **Ephesians 1: 22, 23; 4:4, 15, 16; Ephesians 5:29, 30; Colossians 1:14-18, 21, 22, 24.** For this reason, every true believer is part and parcel of one new family of God. Racial, cultural and ethnic cleavages are taken away so that our organic union in Christ can be manifested. **Ephesians 2; 10 – 21; Galatians 3: 27-29; Colossians 2:18,19** As a Body, the Church is a living organism of life giving cells (individuals releasing the love of God, His grace and gifts to build up or edify others in a matrix of mutual support). **1 Corinthians 12:12 – 27.** When any body of believers live out this paradigm, the result is a living, loving fellowship that manifests the presence and power of Christ. **Ephesians 4:7-16.** As part of Christ's Body, we are judicially of the same substance and nature as Him. It is our responsibility to understand who He is in us and who we are in Him so that we can hunger after righteousness and hate iniquity for as He is in the world, so are we called to be! **Hebrews 1:9.** This is why Paul prayed earnestly for believers in **Ephesians 1:15-23 and Colossians 1:21-29.**

The basic unit of a local expression of the Body of Christ is two people according to **Matthew 18:20.** The Lord guarantees His presence whenever two or three people are gathered in His name. By so doing, the Lord wants His servants to avoid the tendency to despise small beginnings or to rate success on the basis of numbers. God is the Lord of the harvest and He grants increase according to the good pleasure of His will. **1 Corinthians 3:6.** The Lord will therefore have us do His work with a relaxed mind devoid of strife and undue anxiety for "success".

2. **The Bride of Christ** – The Church is also pictured as a bride that was procured through a very expensive bride price – the blood that Jesus, the **Groom**, shed – to redeem her. What this connotes is that the Church is not independent of Her Groom and lives for His own good pleasure. The first demand of this concept is the fact that the Bride-Church needs to allow her Lord to wash out spots, wrinkles and other such things as a prelude to manifest His standard of holiness. **Ephesians 5:22 – 33.** We who are part of the Body are automatically called upon to abandon our selfish lives, agenda filled ways and yield entirely to the Lordship of Christ, just as a true wife would be subject to her husband!
3. **A Holy Building or Habitation of God by the Spirit - Ephesians 2: 18 – 22** pictures the Church as a Holy Building of God built by the Holy Spirit. This is consistent with what Paul the Apostle declares the individual believer to be the temple of the Holy Spirit. **1 Corinthians 6: 15-20:** We need to bear this concept of a Holy Building of God in mind by ensuring that we follow the master plan laid out by Jesus Christ, Lord of the Church. We are not permitted to build whatever we like,

otherwise the structure will collapse in due time. Engagement in the process of growing the Church requires every participant to understand the divine master plan first, follow the Master's instructions and keep to His directions. 1 Corinthians 3: 11-15.

It is certainly laughable for any minister to undertake the church growth process based on a revelation or strategy which essentially sets aside the clear provisions of scripture! It matters less if such worldly methods are presumably "successful" in terms of "souls won" or number of denominational fellowships or "churches" planted. Any church, so called that is man centred or built on humanistic methods will not stand the fire of God. We need therefore to emulate the wise man while shunning his foolish counterpart in **Matthew 7: 24-27**.

When the Church is what it ought to be in any given location or geographical territory, four things of strategic importance happen, without effort:

- 1. All men know instinctively that Jesus is alive as people of diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds dwell together in love and unity John 17:21**
- 2. The Church is grown by the process of spiritual osmosis as the world is drawn in to experience the refreshingly different principles and lifestyle we live out Acts 2: 41-47; Acts 6:7**
- 3. God uses the Church to show Principalities and Powers in heavenly places, His manifold wisdom as the Holy Spirit energizes and uses ordinary men and women to do exploits, deliver captives and roll back the curtain of darkness. Ephesians 3:10**
- 4. The urgency of the Kingdom is kept alive on the front burner and everything we do on earth is validated to the extent that they conduce to getting us ready for the soon return of Jesus Christ.**
Much as it is good to do social projects and plant many churches, we must be careful that these things are not allowed to blind our eyes from reality: The Church must be and operate according to the Master plan of its Head! It is possible to expand membership as a function of ambition, application of human methods and ideas. True and lasting Church Growth however is that which comes from building according to plan and with the right spiritual values and materials! The road to hell is still the broad one with its glitz and glamour appealing to the soulish ream of humanity. Matthew 7: 13 – 23. May God get the present day Church out of the broad way of man made church growth projects that appeal to the soul and switch on to the biblical concept which results in empowerment of the spirit man by the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Critical importance of the Pauline Epistles

It is clear, from a deep study of the scriptures that the gospels concentrated on presentation of the person of Jesus Christ, His teachings and supernatural ministry. He essentially came to proclaim the coming Kingdom of God and to call forth as many as would respond to the mercy of God. After His resurrection, Jesus spent about 40 days expounding the concept and nature of the Kingdom **Acts 1:3**. The Apostles were so filled with expectation of the Kingdom that when Jesus was to ascend on high, they were rightly concerned whether He was about to inaugurate the Kingdom. **Acts 1: 6, 7**.

The Lord had to remind them that the time of manifestation of the Kingdom was in the hands of the Father alone and that there was an interregnum during which they were required to be His witnesses as people in the world but not of the world. Acts 1:7, 8; John 17: 1 – 20. Perhaps because of their cultural mindset as Jews, the disciples did not fully apprehend the hidden message of Jesus that between His resurrection and His return, there would be a **Church Age whose duration no man could predict**. The Lord had to specially arrest Saul of Tarsus on the road to Damascus to use him as a vessel of bringing forth the revelation of the Church; a revelation which was hidden through the ages. That revelation is the Church as God's instrument of breaking down the middle wall of partition which separated Jews and Gentiles into mutually opposing people groups. **Galatians 3:27-29; Ephesians 3:1-21.**

To understand the Church therefore is to understand the mystery of the ages. It is to **understand the power of the gospel to save and regenerate mankind**, irrespective of race, gender or ethnicity into the Body of Christ which, at the consummation of the age, becomes the Bride. He will come to unite with His bride to be all in all when the Kingdoms of this world are handed over to Him who is the designated King of kings and Lord of lords. **1 Corinthians 1:18-31.**

Structure of the New Testament Church

The New Testament Church is on two interrelated levels: **the City** or geographic or territorial church and the **local assembly**. The local assembly is part of the Church in the City. Thus brethren in each city or geographic area are all part of the same Body of Christ, facing the same supra issues and challenges. Senior ministers who have five fold leadership calling are set over the areas. Their function is to

- ensure that what is preached and taught in local assemblies are sound doctrine
- ensure that all believers receive impartation from the five fold in order to be matured, equipped and released into ministry
- divine order and discipline is maintained and preachers function with proper oversight

It is instructive that most of the Pauline (apart from 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus and Philemon) and most of the other epistles were addressed to city churches rather than individuals or local assemblies.

Secondly, the epistles **to Timothy and Titus were instructions on how to run city churches and local assemblies** as well as qualifications for and lifestyle of those who are called to lead God's people.

It is wrong for the Church to disregard clear provisions of scripture and in the bid to be more acceptable to the world, adopt patterns, strategies and corporate structures and practices which combine to create institutions that are short on God and long on humanism.

Distinctive of New Testament Churches

1. A true New Testament Church at both the City and local assembly levels receive the leadership gifting of Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers. Working in harmony, these ascension giftings exist primarily to synergize their perspectives and anointing on the saints under their charge to bring maturation and equip them to do the work of the ministry. Ephesians 4:11, 12.

2. In a true New Testament Church, every believer is open to the ministry of the Holy Spirit who releases the gift or cluster of gifts necessary to function optimally. **Ephesians 4:12-16; Romans 12: 3-8; 1 Corinthians 12; 1 Peter 4:10, 11.** It is the discovery of these gifts and their exercise to edify other believers and to engage with the great Commission that constitutes ministry. This is the core of the priest hood of all believers. **1 Peter 2:9; Mark 16:15-20; Acts 1:80**

Fundamental Ingredients for building the Church

1. Holiness. Every assemblage or group of people who claim to be part of the Church must prove so by manifesting the righteousness they received in Christ Jesus in every day conduct. The devil controls the lifestyle of those who are unsaved and they do what they involuntarily. Those who claim to be Christians are supposed to have received a new nature when they received Jesus as Lord and Saviour. 2 Corinthians 5:17. The New birth experience is an absolute minimum for entry into the Church. Whoever is not born again is not yet part of the church, his or her good deeds notwithstanding! The Lord calls His own to be separate through other worldly holy living. 1 Peter 1: 14-17; 1 Peter 2: 9-12. Any assembly of people who are not placing a high premium on holiness is not a church but a social club. The idea is that when the Price of this world comes round, he will find nothing in God`s people to latch onto just as he found nothing in Christ.
2. Love. God is love and it is out of His abounding love that He caused Jesus to be the propitiation of our sins. John 3:16. We are thus inducted into the family of a loving caring, compassionate and merciful God. No wonder that on the eve of His passion, Jesus commissioned the Church to live by the principle of love as a cornerstone lifestyle. John 13:34, 35.

Pastor Cosmas Ilechukwu, President of the International Ministers Fellowship rightly captures the essential nature and character of the Church in his classic book, the Church of His Vision. **He asserts on page 15:** *“The Church is a company of those who love Jesus and one another because they have received the love of God in our hearts... The Church is a company of those who share in the nature of God who is love (1 John 4:7). They have been called out of the world and made peculiar by the love of God such that they constitute a corporate witness of His love to the world overrun with hate and violence”*

3. Unity. The Body of Christ is one organic whole comprised of several members. The Bride of Christ connotes oneness of the Church- universally and locally. We are actually grafted into the Body to be one. The Spirit of Christ is a Spirit of unity. Those who are called into the Body therefore ought to find in their hearts a kinship spirit with other true saints. This is the glue that causes brethren to stick together in the local assembly. It is also this same spirit that causes Christians to be able to connect with fellow Christians in any part of the world – individually and as a group – for relationship and fellowship. In John 17, Jesus extensively besought the Father to cause a rare level of unity in the spirit to be the hallmark of those who are in Him. John 17:11, 20-23. Any believer who is unable to enjoy fellowship anywhere in the world because of absence of his or her denomination should do well to check up whether his or faith is genuine. Ephesians 4:1-6,13-16

4. Service. Every member of the Body is called to serve one another. It is a major pillar of the Church that we all are challenged to passionately utilize our gifts and callings to strengthen, edify, encourage and bless our brethren, in love. If there is any thing we are permitted to compete for it is to manifest the grace of service. A vibrant and spiritually active church will emerge from this tendency and in the end all of us will be blessed. John 13: 1- 17; Luke 22:24-27; Ephesians 4:12-16.
5. Charisma – By this we mean the measure of the Holy Spirit that the individual believers received from God. For 30 years, Jesus essentially lived an ordinary life. At the age of thirty, He presented Himself to John for baptism. There at Jordan, the Father approved His life and ministry. To commission Him, the Holy Spirit came to indwell the earthly body He wore. Everything Jesus did from that day – from facing the devil at the temptation to His resurrection was done in the power of the Holy Spirit. If Jesus, the Messiah needed the Holy Spirit to function on planet earth, we need Him the more. John 7:38, 39; John 14:14 – 18, 25-26; John 15:26; John 16: 7-15; John 20:22; Acts 1:8.

The Church is alive when all those who are of Christ are hungry for, pay the price of faith and quest for to receive the precious gift of the Holy Spirit. This gift is then expressed and manifested in dynamic individual and corporate prayers; activation of gifts, callings, administrations and operations of the supernatural abilities needed to do the work of the ministry.

6. Kingdom mindedness. The church is not an end by itself but a means to an end. The ultimate purpose of God is to restore His Kingdom on earth. The Church is the present phase of that process when Jews and gentiles alike are called to be part of the Body of Christ. In building up a local assembly or city church therefore, the people of God should be preoccupied with how their preoccupations and activities will create the enabling environment for the King of Kings to rule the Church. Manmade structures is thus torn down. Humanistic projects are shoved aside so that the larger interests of the Kingdom are given priority. Ecumenism is exposed for what it is: an alternate kingdom which will lead the Church not to the King of Kings, but to the great usurper. In a Kingdom paradigm, we realize that there is one King whom the true church is subject to. That way, it is easy to receive other servants of the same King, extend right hand of fellowship with them and enable them to fulfil their own assignments.
7. Leadership. A true Church rests also on a vital pillar of genuine leadership. The role of leadership in directing the Church of Jesus Christ is well documented throughout the New Testament. Jesus Himself called 12 specially to train and release as Apostles. Mark 3:13-16; Luke 6:12-16. Towards the end of His ministry, he was graduating another 70 people from His School of Ministry Luke 10:1-24
8. Grace. Grace is God's ability made available to human kind through Jesus Christ. Grace and Truth came by Christ to supplant the legalistic mosaic order. When grace is evident, the people of God do not struggle to live and do right. It comes effortlessly. The power is not of them but of Christ. Philippians 4:13. In a good assembly, the spirit of grace is self evident from the greeters/ushers to the teachers and preachers.
9. Regular incidence of Miracles. When people of God get it right, signs and wonders are the normal lifestyle of the Church. Mark 16:15 - 20

To further set the stage for the essential truth about leadership in the household of faith, we need to take a recap of some strong truth shared as part of Course 112: The Ascension Gifts/Five Fold Leaders.

God is Particular about His Design for everything!

Adam: As supreme ruler of the universe, God is particular about how His subjects obey instructions. He has never been known to suffer gladly those who modify His express instructions and do anything according to their personal fancies. Adam and Eve lost the Kingdom and a world of matchless bliss because they allowed a third party, Satan to confuse them and activate their souls. The result is that Adam and Eve from that point worshipped God according to what they felt and thought rather than how He wanted – complete submission to His will. Genesis 3:1- 19.

Moses: God variously commended Moses for his faithfulness in building the Tabernacle of witness to the exact specifications received at the Mount. Here was a mobile sanctuary with a complex set of materials required to build and carry it round. Yet Moses instructed the builders and supervised their work so that the express will of God was done.

Noah: Noah was a man whose life should challenge us. Living in an environment where there was no sea or record of a flood, he set out to produce the ark according to exact specifications from God. Laughed at by his generation, Noah was eventually vindicated when the rains came, the fountain of the deep broken and he and his immediate family as well as the animal species therein alone were saved. Genesis chapters 6, 7,8.

Saul: Saul lost the Kingdom when he modified the divine instruction concerning Amalek. Applying reason, Saul spared Agag and the fatlings. In pronouncing the divine judgement for such perfidy of soul worship, Samuel painted a vivid picture of how disobedience is ranked with witchcraft 1 Samuel 15: 1 – 23.

The divine plan of salvation required that God be made flesh in Jesus Christ for the purpose of redeeming man from the power of Satan which he procured by craftiness from Adam. God then required those who received His mercy to stop living for themselves but to be part of a new reality that was hidden from human understanding throughout the ages. That plan is the emergence of a new spiritual family of God amongst human beings. Before then, the world was divided into two classes: Jews and Gentiles. The plan of God was to create one new being – The Church - as prime beneficiary of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ Ephesians 2: 11- 18. Those who claim that the Church is irrelevant or dead are jokers. They do not know the Word of God! The Church which was birthed at Pentecost will exist until Jesus returns to consummate it. The Church is the fullness of the Body of Christ and comprises all the saints who are beneficiaries of the grace freely released in Christ.

The Church – will continue to be relevant until Jesus returns!

The Church is the called out people of God comprising Jews and Gentiles who accept the free gift of salvation by faith. As they become members of the family of God on earth, the saints have their faith resting on the sure foundation of the ministry of the Prophets of Old and the Apostles to whom Jesus entrusted the gospel of the Kingdom. The saints thus become the new Holy Temple of God and His habitation by the Spirit on earth. Ephesians 2: 19 – 22. It was for this reason that Jesus prophesied destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem which General Titus and the invading Roman army executed in AD 70. Matthew 24: 1, 2. In effect, the Church is not and cannot be the building nor is it the denomination or even programs of man! The paradigm that Jesus announced to the Samaritan woman had come into effect and worship is to be in spirit and truth rather

than in rituals and activities. John 4:21-23.

To ensure that the Church of Jesus Christ is built with understanding of its details and specifications, Jesus Christ personally recruited a man who had good understanding of the Old Testament and the capacity to articulate down to the wire, all the details of the Church that was to play a significant role in the plan of God for the ages. Acts 9: 1 - 27.

To this vessel, God committed a detailed description of the Church; what it is; how it should operate; how Satan would fight it and an understanding of its timeline; and what it will be like at the return of Jesus Christ Ephesians 5:26, 27. There is no way any one can engage in New Testament ministry without a proper understanding of the Pauline epistles! Of them, these are particularly critical: Epistles to the Romans, Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Colossians; 1 & 2 Timothy; Titus and the Book of Hebrews which is widely attributed to him also.

Writing in 1 Corinthians chapter 3, Paul describes himself as a wise Master Builder who received the architectural drawings from Jesus concerning His Church. Paul went on to admonish the saints to take heed how they build, warning that God will not accept anything offered to Him outside His master plan 1 Corinthians 3: 10 – 15.

Leadership of the Church

Central to the Master Plan of God for His Church is that it will be led by five categories of office gifts and functions – Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers. To each of these office gifts/functions, Christ has released a measure of Himself. They are not to operate alone or the Church will remain immature and inadequate. Jesus deliberately made it so lest anyone tries to build a human empire around their persons or the office gifts. Each of the five fold was to receive a good understanding of who Jesus is and proclaim Him with conviction and power, by the Holy Spirit.

In effect, the Church of Jesus Christ will be inadequate and less than what it is ordained to be anywhere and anytime the fivefold is dysfunctional or absent. That is why Satan went for the jugular within the first 400 years of the Church when he caused the true Gospel of the Kingdom of God to be sidetracked and dead religion was foisted with its humanistic systems of religiosity. Rome has grown fat on this anomaly claiming the fivefold as valid in one man they chose to call the “pope”, “supreme pontiff” and “holy father”.

As we enter the closing chapter of the Church age, the enemy has struck again and foisted upon humanity an equally dangerous diversion, the pseudo Kingdom gospel. Certainly more dangerous than Rome, this one comprises many Spirit filled saints who have relapsed into soul based worship and in the process, opened themselves to the same Old serpent who tricked Adam and Eve to try and worship God through human reasoning and mental permutations!. These men and women have decided to set aside the true gospel as described in the Bible. They claim that the Bible is inadequate to guide them and they have proceeded to create a new gospel in which the Bible is severely twisted and distorted to mean what they want it to mean. Their antics were exposed in the teaching series on the leaven of the Pseudo Kingdom movement. If you need the complete set of teachings on the subject matter, send a request to ariseoffice@yahoo.co.uk.

Danger Lurks where the Fivefold is absent!

The reason why the pseudo Kingdom movement has deceived many is because of the absence of the five fold at ground level. No saint can be deceived who receives the full ministry of the five fold! As stated in Ephesians 4: 11 – 16 the fivefold has the sacred trust of executing this divine agenda:

- Perfect the Saints to know who they are in Christ and who He is in them
- Equip the saints to know their roles in the work of God and do so
- Enable the saints to play their assigned roles in building up/edifying the Church
- When the saints receive ministry from the five fold, they come to a place of unity in our faith to the degree that regardless of racial/ethnic backgrounds, social status, age, gender or location, the knowledge of God, His Kingdom, the Church of Jesus Christ and the lifestyle we are called to live on earth
- The saints thus become mature and measure up to the fullness of the stature of Christ
- With this, immaturity will be removed and the saints will no longer be tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine/sweet sounding doctrines of devils and soulish inventions of men and women. The saints will be able to read a book or listen to say the greatest of the pseudo Kingdom teachers and know exactly where leaven is hidden. They will thus be able; by the Holy Spirit at work in them have an internal sensor which places a check in their spirit to know when even famous teachers have deviated from the faith! 1 John 2: 18-28.
- Saints who are thus built up will discern when preachers are setting them up to milk them – whether in promoting books, seeking funds or any avenue of crafty fund raising to finance vanities.
- Saints are able to mature to the point where they freely receive and release all their gifts and callings for the mutual edification of the whole Body.

Responsibilities of Ministers of the Gospel

All Pastors must recognize the reality that the saints are MEMBERS OF CHRIST! That they are in our churches is a privilege and we must not regard them as our properties or slaves to feed them with what we want! Their Lord and Saviour has already determined what He wants to feed them with and how to build them up. Any minister who refuses to follow the divine plan is unqualified to lead the people of God!

Definition of leadership

Leadership is the ability to be used of God to serve His saints and influence them to discover, pursue and fulfil His purpose for their lives. This spiritual paradigm was instituted by Jesus Christ through teaching and practice which challenged the old religious concept as well as worldly perspectives of leadership.

A number of concepts are intertwined in our working definition. Let us take them one by one.

What it is not:

Leadership is not dictatorship. It is not the ability to shout and exert much energy to be seen to be in charge.

On the other hand, Leadership is also not a weak, spineless display of incapacity to provide guidance and strength to the saints committed to one's trust.

Leadership is not offered when everyone in a group of saints are seized with humanistic, worldly democratic propensities. Speaking by the Spirit, Paul the Apostle warned in 1 Corinthians 14:26 "How is it then brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation and has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification". Any where you see a group of saints who are averse to leadership or reject leadership, you have walked into a potential minefield that will lead to confusion capable of destroying the Christian witness.

8 Imperatives of True Leadership

There are all kinds of leadership that strut the stage in the household of faith. Some are leaders made and installed by men. Others are self made leaders. Some are occupying

space and denominational positions of authority. However, there are also those who are truly called to lead in the Household of Faith.

Those who are called by God will manifest the 8 principles listed here:

1. **Revealed from Heaven:** Leadership comes by revelation from heaven. For this reason, waiting on the Lord in prayer, fasting and setting apart is recommended for true kingdom leadership to be birthed at any level. It is necessary therefore to avoid appointing leadership based on soulish considerations such as emotion or feeling. Emotions are fleeting and deceptive. The way Jesus appointed the 12 disciples into office is a model. Mark 3: 13; Luke 6:12.

2. **Intimacy with Christ:** Leadership must be first called and willing to develop intimacy with Christ. We must come to the point of realizing that without Him, we can do nothing! Jesus called the disciples firstly to be with Him! It is important to note that though called, leadership is birthed at the place of communion with God in the secret place. Mark 3: 13, 14; Luke 6: 13. John the Baptist was in the wilderness where God developed him before he was manifested to Israel Luke 1:80. People also tend to forget that Jesus Himself, though the Messiah, spent 30 years in obscurity with the Father (save the incidence at the Temple at the age of 12). At the appointed time, He came forth for the baptism of John and was made manifest to Israel! John 1: 29-34; Luke 3: 23.

3. **Process:** A saint may be called to leadership and know it by prophecy or through any of the revelatory gifts. However, God has ordained that from the CALL to the COMMISSIONING into leadership, there is a period or span of time called PROCESS! This process period is when God deals with flaws, attitudes, understanding and immaturity. Here, the fire of affliction may come. One could be misunderstood by people. Persecutions may come and all manner of troubles. Men may laugh and mock the saint going through all these troubles. Unknown to them, the saint is undergoing the very process God has appointed to take away the dross in him/her so that after trial, the saint can come forth as gold! This whole process takes away the factors which would have made him or her "novice". Joseph was a great leader because He underwent the fire of process.

4. **Sent:** Leaders are to be "sent". What this means is that the Kingdom abhors self made leaders. You do not just wake up and assume a leadership role or function because you think or believe you are up to the challenges. God requires that leaders undergo some degree of tutelage and preparation. After they have served to some degree, God orchestrates their separation unto another work or expansion of their scope of responsibility in the place He originally planted them. The orchestration of God is not always smooth. At times, this may involve crises, misunderstanding or even quarrels. Yet in all these things, the ultimate purpose of God will come through. When the time came for Paul and Barnabas to be separated to fulfil the full counsel of God for their lives, it took disagreement over John Mark for this to come to pass. The whole counsel of God in the issue was to cover more territory by spreading out His human resources. Acts 15: 36 – 41.

5. **Authority & Anointing:** Leadership is received and sustained by the nature and scope of the authority received and the anointing released. Mark 3: 15, 16; Luke 6: 13, 14. Leadership is not merely a title or position. Brethren who occupy an office or position without the requisite calling and anointing are threading on dangerous ground. Those who allow themselves to receive titles from men without authority from Christ are engaged in dead works of the flesh. True leadership is backed by the clear delegated authority of Christ manifested in the right unction to function. Every leadership calling is ultimately proved by the degree of supernatural ability received which leads to results

that are clearly divine. The devil and his evil hosts know this truth and can distinguish those called by God from those called by men.

6. **Service:** Service is the core of true leadership. It is not about position, title or acquisition of the titles of office. The degree to which you are willing to serve, joyfully, as unto the Lord in that which God has called you is what will reveal the degree of your inner strength. Jesus modelled this Himself when He washed the feet of His disciples. When Peter refused to be washed, Jesus made it clear that he had a wrong understanding of leadership. Jesus then admonished the disciples to follow His example. John 13: 1- 17. Following strife caused by the ambition of Zebedee's sons to seek pre-eminence in the Kingdom, Jesus had to emphasize that leadership in the Kingdom of God rests on a different paradigm from that of the world. Whereas worldly rulers are big bosses who require servitude from their subject, Jesus made it clear that Kingdom leaders are known by the selfless services they render to the flock. Matthew 20: 20 - 28

7. **Sacrifice:** True leadership will emerge from the degree of sacrifice that has been made to respond to the call. God Himself has paid a huge price through the blood of Jesus for our redemption. It is up to the individual who is called to lay down one's life; possessions and self esteem at the altar of sacrifice before one can walk in the fullness of the authority conferred. Romans 12: 1 makes it clear that in order to manifest the spiritual gifts as God ordained; the starting point is to lay oneself at the altar of sacrifice. For this reason, Romans 12; 2 calls for a renewed mind. John 10: 11.

8. **Empowering:** True leadership is set in the Body for the purpose of acting as channels through which Christ perfects, strengthens and empowers the saints. Empowerment is an imperative, not a choice. Whoever is in leadership must note that the saints are the purchase of the costly bloodshed by Jesus Christ. They have a fundamental right to know and understand who they are in Christ and who He is in them., They deserve to be well fed with balanced spiritual nourishment of the word of God and nurture from leadership to the extent that they discover their spiritual gifts, callings and are enabled to manifest what the Lord has imparted into them. Leaders who are unable to empower the saints have lost their mandates and should go to seek the face of God. It is instructive that the most important thing the risen Christ said to Peter was "feed my sheep"! John 21: 15 – 17; Ephesians 4:10 – 16; 1 Peter 5: 1 – 4.

BIBLICAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR THOSE WHO WOULD ASSUME FORMAL LEADERSHIP IN CONGREGATIONS OF THE SAINTS.

The Lord has provided clear qualifications required of ministers He will use to lead His saints in formal ministry. These provisions are not designed to scare people off ministry. They are simply designed to up the ante so that those who lead will stand on a high moral pedestal that even Satan and the hosts of hell recognize and bow to. We have extracted this lesson from the Ordination Manual of the Global School of Ministry and is reproduced here for the benefit of all who may feel led to apply for ordination after their programme here on face book.

In **1 Peter 2:9** all believers are called to the priesthood of saints. This does not mean that the Church of Jesus Christ is a happy go lucky institution where people do what they like, when

they like and how they like. Paul the Apostle describes the Church as "the ground and pillar of truth for which he enjoined his protégé and Bishop of Ephesus, Timothy, to *"know how thou ought to behave thyself"* – **1 Timothy 3:15**.

One of the issues which marred the glory of the charismatic movement and its predecessors - borne out of ignorance - was the tendency to sweep away every ordinance under the assumption that order is antithetical to Spirit led worship. On the contrary, the total evidence of scripture affirms that the Holy Spirit is essentially a Spirit of order and harmony. The Old Testament exudes divine order and harmony from beginning to end. The gospels also testify to the necessity of due order and harmony as even our Lord Himself modelled with His baptism under John to fulfil all righteousness right to His atonement at Calvary.

The early Church observed order and due process even as it was hallmarked with the evident presence and power of God. When the Corinthian Church went out of control and order in exercising spiritual gifts, Paul the Apostle was used of the Holy Spirit to explain the gifts in detail – **1 Corinthians 12**, the thread of love/charity that holds every gift together **1 Corinthians 13** and the right order and pattern for ministering spiritual gifts to glorify God and reap maximum benefits in the Church – **1 Corinthians 14**. In **1 Corinthians 14:26** Paul enjoins *"let all things be done unto edifying"*. In verse 33 he stated *"For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints"*. In **verse 40**, that critical but often neglected chapter of the bible enjoins us: *"Let all things be done decently and in order"*.

If the present day Church of Jesus Christ must fulfil her Great Commission mandate, it is imperative that we begin to put in place a definite programme of action and training. This programme will see people progress from being BELIEVERS to being DISCIPLES and finally ORDAINED MINISTERS who will do the work of the ministry in all areas of church work, within and outside the four walls of the sanctuary. We must restore the holistic concept of ministry which is anchored on ministering spiritual gifts. As people are fully equipped, we should proceed to release them into ministry so that they will have the necessary confidence to function. The priesthood of all believers is one core hallmark of the Church. Therefore, ordination programmes ought to be regular features of annual church life. It is wrong to limit ordination to a select few priestly caste, a strange import from Rome and the spirit of Babylon. Every citizen of the Kingdom who is willing to pay the price of consecration to the Lord and absolute commitment to the Kingdom deserves to be ordained to fulfil the ministry received of the Lord. Not all saints will fulfil their ministries within the context of pulpit ministry.

The vast majority will fulfil their ministries in the market place – in business, the professions, academia, public service, media and even on the internet and through such media as face book, my space, you tube, etc! No fivefold minister should be threatened. It is the very core of why people are called into the five fold – to be used by the Lord to perfect, equip and release the saints into the ministry they are called to! The more ministers in a congregation, the merrier will the work of the Lord be. After all we need specially called ministers to men, women, youths, children, prostitutes, street people, military personnel, police, immigrant communities and indeed a thousand and one opportunities God has provided. We must take our minds out of the box Rome entrapped it with the strange doctrine of clergy versus laity! Every believer can indeed be a minister of the gospel – they only need to release themselves to the Holy Spirit who is willing and able to process them to be the vessels of honour God designed them to be and for which they were redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

ORDINATION — WHAT IS IT?

Ordination can rightly be defined as the act of confirming the eligibility of a Christian for service in the Church of Jesus Christ through the laying on of hands by senior ministers functioning as authorities in the Church. This presupposes that there will be the following parties for a valid ordination to take place:

1. An ordination candidate whose eligibility is anchored on having the requisite character,

grace and manifestation of divine presence and power set out in scriptures relevant to the office into which the ordination is taking place. Such a candidate usually undergoes training/preparation for the exercise. It should be noted that mere completion of a bible school or seminary programme is insufficient to justify an ordination. This is because most bible schools concentrate on ministering to the mind, rather than the heart or the spirit man. A bible school graduate should be humble enough to submit to mentoring and spiritual formation in order to fulfil ministry.

2. A confirming authority who is either the vision holder of a Ministry or local congregation, a duly recognised senior minister in the Body of Christ who is accepted as such by the Church in the city/nation, or the authority of a Ministerial Fellowship to which the ordination candidate wishes to belong. Witnesses to the ordination add value to the exercise.

EXAMPLES

1. IN A SENSE, THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST BY JOHN WAS ALSO AN ORDINATION IF THE ENTIRE EVENT IS CONTEXTUALISED WITH RELEVANT SCRIPTURES. ISAIAH 61:1-3 EXPLAINS THE EVENTS AT JOHN'S BAPTISM RECORDED IN MATTHEW 3:13-17, MARK 1:9-11, LUKE 3:21- 22; JOHN 1: 29-34.

2. Jesus ordained the 12 disciples whom He chose after all night prayer - **Mark 3:13-19; Luke 6:12-16.**

The early church carried out ordinations. **Acts 6:1-7** speaks of ordination of the first deacons. We see ordination exercises in various forms, some closed while others were open. Apostle Paul was ordained into ministry by an obscure but faithful servant of the Lord, Ananias - **Acts 9:10-18**. Paul and Barnabas were consecrated Apostles, released by Prophets and Teachers - **Acts 13:1-3**

Qualification for Leaders in the House hold of Faith

General Qualifications for universal application - In **Exodus 18:21-22** the Holy Spirit used Jethro, Moses' father in law, to outline these general qualities for leadership.

- (i) **"Provide out of the people"** - That is men from within. Men that must have sat under the teaching ministry and/or leadership of the instrument God will use to ordain or recommend them for ordination. If it is a network, the candidate for ordination or licensing must have fully subscribed to the objects and purposes of the body. This principle is further amplified in **Acts 1:21-22** when a replacement was sought for Judas Iscariot as well as **Acts 6:3** when there was need to ordain people into the diaconate.
- (ii) **"Able men"** - These are people who do not give room for failure or fear and have no excuses for not doing their work. They get things done out of a humble heart of service.
- (iii) **"Such as fear God"** - A minister must fear God. The fear of God is one of the greatest motivations to live right and serve sincerely. God sees the secrets of the heart - **Jeremiah 17:9-10; Psalm 119:11**.
- (iv) **"Men of truth"** - Ministers should be people of their word no matter how inconvenient things may be. The Lord enjoins us to let our yea be real and that once we have made commitments we should stand by them. This is what integrity is all about. This affects commitments we make to our spouse, children, employers, employees, in the Church of Jesus Christ, the home and

the society. See **Psalm 15; Psalm 24:1-6; Matthew 5:33-37**.

- (v) **"Hating covetousness"** - We live in an age where covetousness is disguised as faith. The bible is clear that those who serve God should not be slaves to mammon and must be liberated from its deadly grip. **1 Timothy 6:3-12** tells us that the love of money is the root of all evil and urges ministers to focus on heavenly goals. The uniform testimony of scripture is that God provides for and prospers His own servants as an act of His graciousness. Wealth, when it is a gift from God or procured by laying hold of the fullness of His counsel, is a sweet sight to behold as it is decorated with humility and character. There is no room in the Kingdom for those with the spirit of Judas Iscariot, the treasurer of Jesus Christ who stole from the bag - **John 12:1-6**.
- (vi) **"Place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens"** - This speaks of spiritual capacity. It must be noted that ordination is generally into ministry. Thereafter the leaders should utilise revelation and information they have on those ordained to assign them responsibilities appropriate to their known capacities. People should not be put in positions or given responsibilities based on parochial considerations such as proximity to the leader, ethnic or racial considerations or size of gifts they bring. Instead people should be positioned based on their capacity to discharge responsibilities assigned to them. **Romans 12:6** says ministry should be in proportion of faith.

Qualifications for Leadership in the New Testament –

There are some people who have presumed that there are no laws or regulations in the New Testament. Nothing could be further from the truth. Those who peddle the pernicious doctrine of cheap grace display their ignorance of the New Covenant. Grace empowers us to obey God out of His strength, not our own abilities. The New Testament therefore presents a superior paradigm to the Old because whatever God requires us to do is based on the strength He has imparted to us by His Spirit at work within us. Those who are true citizens of the Kingdom prove it by their heart which is inclined to please God and obey His precepts. The Lord then works out their obedience to His just requirement by the Holy Spirit who works to make us will and do what is well pleasing in His sight. Philippians 1:6; Philippians 2:13.

While all saints can and should release their gifts to bless and edify others, the Lord requires of those who will lead His flock in any formal capacity a measure of divine processing that brings them to the point where their very lives bear testimony of His grace and power at work in such people. As leaders, their lives should back up their sermons so that it becomes evident that they are possessors rather than mere professors of the Kingdom life and power!

3. **Bishops/Overseers/Senior Pastors**

1 Timothy 3:1-7 lists qualities for the bishopric:

- (i) **"Blameless"** – The level of integrity should be high which gives no room for doubt as to the character of the minister to believers and unbelievers alike.
- (ii) **"The husband of one wife"** - This speaks of faithfulness in marriage and having high moral standing.
- (iii) **"Vigilant"** – The grace to be watchful over self and the flock – **Proverbs 27:23**.
- (iv) **"Sober"** - In the face of all things and events ministers should keep their

heads above water.

- (v) **"Of good behaviour"** - A minister must be well behaved.
- (vi) **"Given to hospitality"** - Interestingly, the Lord cares for the welfare of the flock in the city as well as brethren in transit. Ministers of God should have the caring heart of God.
- (vii) **"Apt to teach"** - Feeding the sheep with the sincere milk of the Word is the primary focus of the bishopric. Ability and willingness to teach is therefore imperative.
- (viii) **"Not given to wine"** - The Lord expects those who will represent Him to abstain from all potentially intoxicating substances so that the Holy Spirit alone will have sway of their lives. See **Ephesians 5:18**.
- (ix) **"No striker"** - Ministers must be above affray and not given to pugilism.
- (x) **"Not greedy of filthy lucre"** – As in **Exodus 18**, the Word decries covetousness.
- (xi) **"Patient"** – The ability to wait out storms and tempests attests to faith and maturity.
- (xii) **"Not a brawler"** – This speaks of abhorrence of a strife filled, quarrelsome and riotous life.
- (xiii) **"One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity"** - This speaks of a diligent quest to put domestic affairs in order and not allowing the family to suffer as a result of ministry. Ultimately, every individual soul must stand to give account before God for how life was lived. However ministerial parents must do all in their power to exercise discipline, in love, so that children grow up with godly fear and respect for authority.
- (xiv) **"Not a novice"** - A minister needs to be seasoned and mature. Novices have a tendency to attribute the workings of the Holy Spirit to themselves. This will of course lead to pride and self reliance.
- (xv) **"Must have a good report of them that are without."** - This quality adds flavour to a minister's witness amongst those of their mission field.

Never allow these qualities to scare you. All you need to do is to sink into the waiting arms of our heavenly Father and tap into the fullness of the grace in Jesus Christ, the captain of our salvation! He is the vine and we are the branches. As long as we abide in Him, His life will flow in and through us by the power of the Holy Spirit to produce the quality of fruit He desires! John 15: 1 - 16

Titus 1:5-9 also outlines the requirements for leaders in God's house as follows:

- (i) **"Blameless"** – The level of integrity should be high which gives no room for doubt as to the character of the minister to believers and unbelievers alike.
- (ii) **"The husband of one wife"** - This speaks of faithfulness in marriage and having high moral standing.
- (iii) **"Having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly"** - Scripture makes it clear that ministry starts with the home. The ability to get it right at home will prepare one for ministry in the church. **1 Timothy 3:13** sums up the need to go into ministry well equipped and prepared.

- (iv) **"Not self-willed"** – Those who represent God must be people who can receive instruction and function under authority since they too will be exercising authority over others.
- (v) **"Not soon angry"** – Anger has extreme capacity to drive away the presence of God and create the enabling environment for the enemy to function. Therefore those who want to lead God's people need to allow Him to deal with the spirit of anger so that they can represent him better.
- (vi) **"Not given to wine"** - The Lord expects those who will represent Him to abstain from all potentially intoxicating substances so that the Holy Spirit alone will have sway of their lives. See **Ephesians 5:18**.
- (vii) **"No striker"** - Ministers must be above affray and not given to pugilism.
- (viii) **"Not given to filthy lucre"** - As in **Exodus 18**, the Word decries covetousness.
- (ix) **"A lover of hospitality"** - Interestingly, the Lord cares for the welfare of the flock in the city as well as brethren in transit. Ministers of God should have the caring heart of God.
- (x) **"A lover of good men"** – Those who will lead God's people need to love good people and desire to bless them, especially those of the household of faith – **Galatians 6:10**.
- (xi) **"Sober"** - In the face of all things and events ministers should keep their heads above water.
- (xii) **"Just"** – This speaks of a life that evidently displays faith in Christ.
- (xiii) **"Holy"** – Leaders are called to live holy lives without reproach so that they can have the moral standing to preach and demand the same standard from the flock - **1 Peter 1:15-17; Romans 2:21-23**.
- (xiv) **"Temperate"** - Leaders must live in moderation knowing the Lord will soon return. Consequently, they should shun the love of the world and its allurements. It does not mean that leaders cannot live well, it simply means the heart of ministers should be so tuned to heaven that they are not carried away by distractions - **Philippians 4:5-6; 1 John 2:15-17**.
- (xv) **"Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught"** – Leaders should be sound in the gospel doctrine and able to teach it to others, as well as to refute opposers.

Paul ends this list of qualities required of elders by explaining in **Titus 1:10-11**: *"for there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision. Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not for filthy lucre sake"*.

4. Deacons

Acts 6:1-7 offers a range of qualities expected of deacons.

- (i) **"Look ye out among you"** - This is the same principle spoken by Jethro in

Exodus 18:21. Candidates should be groomed for a period of time by one who can account for their character and suitability.

- (ii) **"Of honest report"** - This bears out the need for people of integrity who hate covetousness and will not see the ministry as an avenue to get rich quick.
- (iii) **"Full of the Holy Ghost"** – The work of the Lord is intensely spiritual and can only be successfully executed with spiritual resources. The fullness of the Holy Spirit with accompanying power, represented by specific, identifiable gifts, rather than the hollow speaking in tongues that pervade the church world today, is a need that cannot be over stated. If children of God would seek after and obtain on the altar of intense prayer, consecration and by faith the real power from on high, we would see an empowered church that will shake the world around us to believe in Christ.
- (iv) **"Full of wisdom"** – Divine rather than humanistic wisdom is required to co-labour with God in His vineyard. Human wisdom tends to craftiness and strife. Wisdom from above is pure and gentle. **James 3:13-18** contrasts the two kinds of wisdom.

Why the Lord set these Benchmarks for Leadership

1. Leaders derive their core validity from the degree to which they allow the Lord to work out His Holy nature in and through them. The directives to those who desire to be overseers in the House hold of Faith in 1 Timothy 3: 1 – 7 reflects this reality. Those who lead stand on solid ground when they pant and hunger after God and refuse any other substitute for Him, including the work in their hands. 1 Timothy 4:12 – 16.

2. All through scripture, the Lord places great premium on character of those He calls to lead His people. Character gives leaders strength to face fire and overcome all the crafty plans of the enemy. The devil is not often afraid of a leader's ability to manifest signs and wonders because he too can instigate 'miracles'. Satan will however cringe at the sight of a truly holy leader in whom like in Christ; he can find nothing to sustain an accusation. John 14...When the High Priest Joshua forgot this maxim, it took the grace of God to save him. Zechariah 3: 1- 7. Anointing without character will lead to nuisance! 2 Timothy 3: 10 – 12.

3. By actively manifesting Christ, leaders are able to be His witnesses. The first calling of the leader therefore is to be a witness to the reality that in Christ Jesus, there is sufficient grace to transform lives. Those who will lead by proclamations or physical herding of the sheep are missing a vital ingredient. The best leadership is one clothed with the evident presence of God. This releases a holy aura which compels the saints to give him or her right of way to lead them into the deeper waters of the Spirit. Acts 1:8

Critical Questions in Leadership

1. Since the whole Body is a living organism which each part functioning for the overall benefit of the whole under Christ as the head, is leadership still necessary in a New Testament assembly of saints?

Answer: Yes indeed! Though the whole Body is a living organism, Christ Himself deemed it necessary to appoint five set of people – Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists,

Pastors and Teachers to represent His headship office in the Body. When we receive their gifts and callings, we receive Christ who appointed them.

2. Why is leadership essential in the Household of faith?

Answer: There are a number of reasons why leadership is essential. In these scriptures, the Lord articulates the reasons:

2.1 Ultimately, every true leader is an authority appointed by God. They therefore represent Him.

2.2. Leaders are set in place to ensure that order is maintained. Without order, nothing can work as chaos will ensure.

2.3 Leadership is set to inspire good works amongst the saints.

2.4 Leaders are put in place to exercise discipline where necessary. They do not bear the sword of authority in vain.

3. What do we owe Leadership? Romans 13: 1-8; Hebrews 13:7,17

Answer: We owe leadership these responsibilities:

3.1 Discern and Recognize them as leaders. Discernment is critical because what you perceive of leaders will influence your response to them.

3.2. Accept them in good faith, putting aside our past experiences so that our past does not trap the present or future.

3.3 Understand the level of grace, authority and anointing deposited in them

3.4. Obey instructions and Submit to their authority. Submission is of critical import because it is the acid test of true leadership. Someone once quipped that he who claims to be a leader with no one following is only going for a walk! We do not have to understand all details of an instruction before obeying. One can obey an instruction without submitting to a leader. This is where the obedience was grudgingly or executed rebelliously. Submission is a heart attitude which allows the leader to lead. Undoubtedly, obedience and submission is not absolute. It is to the degree that what they lead us to do is not unscriptural and does not wound our conscience.

3.5. Take our place beside them in the grand project God committed to their trust and has called us to be helpers of the work. (See also 1 Chronicles chapter 12: 1-38). The greatest thing we can do with and for true leadership is to occupy our niche in the spirit and release the gifts and callings of God in us.

3.6. Love them as unto the Lord. Leaders are human beings with souls. They will be encouraged greatly when the people they are leading shower them with genuine godly love. Leaders will be lifted to receive telephone, email, letters, cards and text messages appreciating their leadership. Their inner beings react instinctively to acts of love from the flock of Jesus Christ.

3.7. Honour them – 1 Thessalonians 5: 12, 13. Do not wait for a leader to die before you honour him or her with expressive funeral orations! That is pharisaic at its worst. Honour them while they live. Appreciate them and show them how much they mean to you.

3.8. Bless them as much as lies in us. We are called to sow back to those who invest spiritually in us in all good things. Galatians 6:6. This same principle is upheld by Jesus Christ in Matthew 10: 9 – 14 and in 1 Corinthians 9: 7 – 14. The scriptures up the ante in 1 Timothy 5: 17, 18 by charging those who sit under leadership which is truly worthy to reward them with double measure of blessings. It is important that this generation of saints take heed to this injunction. We live in an age where saints write fat checks to popular television preachers including those who peddle error and have become agents of Satan. The same people put miserable change in their local assembly tills or wherever God feeds them spiritually.

The grand puzzle: Just as no one can validly claim love of God without loving fellow humans who are visible, no saint can claim to submit to God and His will who lightly esteems the instructions of a godly leader.

4. What should we do when leaders step on our toes?

Answer: there may be times when in our walk with a leader, he or she seems to step on our toes. Our response or reaction should be moderated by these factors:

4.1. Understand that you cannot validly assume knowledge of why they took the course of action which resulted in your hurt.

4.2. Give them benefit of doubt. Put the best construction on what happened.

4.3. If you are not able to bear it spiritually, proceed to option two. Approach the leader in a spirit of meekness and humility, explaining your hurt. Avoid egotism, haughtiness and disrespect in so doing. Matthew 18: 15; Galatians 6:1,2.

4.4. Avoid the spirit of hurt from latching onto your spirit and soul as well as the spirit of rejection. These satanic agents are on the prowl seeking whoever will open the door for them to devour. Resist Satan and all attempts to manipulate you to feel bad; remain sour and disconnected from fellowship. 1 Peter 5: 8,9.

4.5 Understand that God uses leaders to rebuke, correct, chastise or discipline you out of His divine love for you. Look beyond the human instruments or the way or tone of their voices. Realise that the purpose of God is to present you faultless at the appearing of Jesus Christ. Hebrews 12: 5 – 11.

4.5 Believe the word that whether the leader deliberately offended you or not, all things shall work together for your good. Romans 8:28 – 39.

5. What do I do when leaders err or fall into sin?

Answer: Leaders are humans and therefore can make mistakes or even miss God at any point in time in their lives and ministry. When this happens:

5.1 Take it to God in prayer in earnest intercession for their souls. This is easier if we have formed the godly habit of interceding for our leaders. We should not only pray for greater anointing on them. We should also pray that the Lord will deliver them from every snare of Satan and evil associations which will drain away the grace of God. We should pray for leaders to overcome all temptation of worldliness; love of money, immorality of every sort and indeed all tendencies which do not glorify God.

5.2 Avoid the temptation of sitting in judgement over them. God says He alone is qualified to judge those He sets in leadership. Trust that God will do what seems right to Him and not the leader or us. Romans 14: 4, 7 – 13

5.3. If the Holy Spirit leads us, we can lovingly but gently confront them in a way that is not designed to shame them. Otherwise, we can refer the matter to the authority/leaders they submit to.

5.4. Never celebrate the fall of your leader or participate in any glorification of his/her fall. This is a very dangerous ground to stand on!

5.5. If you are persuaded that a leader has missed it in terms of lifestyle, doctrine or that your soul is in danger of contamination if you continue to be under that covering, the best way is to prayerfully receive direction on how to separate yourself from that work.

6. What is the sword of authority? Romans 13:4, 5

Answer every true leader carries a 'sword of authority'. It is God given the ability to

6.1 Render a negative report to God concerning a brother or sister who is rebellious or disruptive. Romans 13:2; Hebrews 13:17.

6.2. Pronounce the degree of discipline necessary to deal with the negative behaviour.

6.3. Hand over a recalcitrant sinner to Satan to deal with the flesh so that the spirit is saved. 1 Corinthians 5: 1-5

6.4. Render a good report concerning someone to God. Hebrews 13:17

6.5 Release a word of blessing for those who serve well under them to prosper. Romans 13:3,4

Case Studies on Leadership and the Sword of Authority.

Noah. This man was, in practice, Patriarch of the entire human race. He had a profound testimony of being one who pleased God for which he and his family alone were saved when the deluge occurred. Genesis 6. After the flood, Noah missed it one day and went drunk with much wine. His son Ham saw and celebrated his nakedness while Shem and Japheth covered him up in awe and respect. When Noah woke up, he exercised the sword of authority and placed a curse on Ham that was to define the course of human history. He also blessed Shem and Japheth whose descendants have long enjoyed those proclamations. Genesis 9: 20 – 27.

Moses. Here was a man whose ways pleased God beyond measure and God Himself testified that Moses enjoyed the privilege of face to face conversation. God also testified that He was the meekest of persons. What happened with people who rose against him offers us an insight into the power of authority in leadership.

Miriam, his own senior sister once dissembled when Moses 'made the mistake of marrying an Africa' (Marriage outside Jewry was deemed unthinkable!). When Miriam rallied a family rebellion with Aaron against Moses, God judged her with Leprosy, the most outstanding punishment other than killing. Numbers 12: 1 – 15.

Korah, Dathan and Abiram rebelled against the Authority of Moses and the result was they and their families were on record as the first people to transit from this side of eternity to hell! Numbers 16: 1- 40.

The greatest sin of Israel was the sin of rebellion and murmuring against their human leaders and God. A journey of 40 days became an ordeal of 40 years. All those who rebelled in the wilderness perished and only Joshua and Caleb survived because of the obedience to God and submission to His human assign, Moses. Only those two out of all the adults who left Egypt got any inheritance. What a great lesson!

Samuel. As the National Prophet of Israel, he heard from God and gave instructions to Saul to destroy Amalek completely. Saul obeyed partly and veered off into what he thought was best. The result was a stinging reproof and permanent loss of the crown. 1 Samuel 15: 1 – 32.

David. David offers us great insight into how God wants us to treat authority, even when they miss it. This young man had been anointed to be King as a teenager. Unfortunately, the previous King, Saul, was still physically on the throne. Twice, David had the opportunity to kill Saul but refused to touch one who had been anointed (though backslidden and out of favour with God). The moving accounts of both incidents are recorded in 1 Samuel 24: 1- 24 and 1 Samuel 26: 1 – 25. No wonder God never allowed any man to kill David, even when he sinned and rather he enjoyed the mercy of God.

Jesus. Jesus respected both secular and spiritual authority. In Luke 20: 20 – 25, Jesus let the people know that submitting to human governance was the right thing to do when people inquired whether they should pay tax to Caesar. When the High Priest questioned Him, Jesus was very respectful. Even when an officer struck Jesus unjustly, He did not react angrily. Jon 18: 19 – 24.

Jesus decreed great judgement for cities and peoples who reject the gospel and persecute missionaries. Matthew 10: 5 – 38. It is important that we understand these fundamental truths!

Peter. When Ananias and his wife Sapphira lied to Peter and the Apostles concerning how much they sold their property, Peter gave us an insight into what happens when believers misrepresent facts to leaders: it is the unseen but ever present Holy Spirit that is lied to. Peter pronounced what seemed a harsh judgement on the couple. In truth, the idea was to purge the nascent Church of the old leaven of hypocrisy and lying. Acts 5: 1 – 11.

When the sorcerer of Samaria tried to bribe his way to receive the Holy Spirit and use Him for impure motives, Peter exercised the sword of authority and the man went blind for a season. Acts 8: 9 – 24.

Paul – He exercised the sword of authority a number of times. To the Thessalonians, he enjoined in 1 Thessalonians 5: 14 and 2 Thessalonians 3: 6 – 12 to warn those who are disorderly and lazy to change or be thrown out of fellowship. Paul also exercised the sword of authority in 1 Corinthians 5: 1- 13 to decree that brethren who live in immorality should be disfellowshipped and handed over to Satan to torment their physical bodies so that they can repent and embrace the Lord again. In 2 Timothy 4: 14 – 16, Paul pronounced judgement on Alexander the Coppersmith who did him much harm.

In Acts 23: 1- 5, we see Paul apologize to the High Priest for calling him a white washed wall. Paul then went on to cite the law which forbids people from speaking evil of their rulers.

John. Widely called the Apostle of Love, John wielded the sword of authority when he issued a decree concerning Diotrefes who loved pre-eminence and resisted his instructions. 3 John 9 – 10.

Remedies for falling foul of authority.

There are many ministers and saints today who are suffering from exercise of the sword of authority against them. It could be expressly pronounced curses or wounds emitting from the heart or minds of authorities they served under. Hebrews 13:17 is very clear that every leader makes two types of reports to God concerning those who serve under them, viz:

The report of Joy concerning those who serve well with them and are truly submitted.

The report of pain which goes up from their hearts/minds/tongues concerning those who make leadership a great pain.

The word of God is clear that report of pain from a leader is UNPROFITABLE for the brother or sister for whom it's being made.

Those who pretend authority is powerless are living in delusion! Nothing could be further from the truth. The ground norm is this: Genesis 8:22 and Galatians 6:7,8 establish a powerful law which rules in all of creation: what a man sows, he shall reap. If you have laboured in craftiness with authority or have not truly submitted to authority, one has sowed an evil seed which will germinate and yield a harvest! By the law in Genesis 5: 1-3, everything reproduces after its kind. So rebellion will beget rebellion. Craftiness will beget craftiness and such like.

Praise God there is a remedy! That remedy is encapsulated in the three words:

Repentance: If the Holy Spirit has convicted you that you fell foul of authority at one time or the other, confess your sin, repent of it and renounce that behaviour. The mercy of God is always released for those who are able to humble themselves and acknowledge that they got it wrong. Psalm 51:16,17; Isaiah 66:1,2

Restitution: Where necessary, approach the leader you wronged, whether you are still serving with him/her or not and whether he/she knew of your offence or not. Do so with genuine repentance and humility of heart either by a face to face meeting, phone call, text or email and ask for forgiveness. The leader has no reason to demand a pound of flesh. When you do your own part, the onus is on the leader to be gracious like God is to him/her and therefore forgive you and release you. If the leader gets mean and wants a pound of flesh, he/she brings on the ire of God. Ephesians 4: 30-32. God will therefore turn the tables against that leader.

Application of the principle of breaking of curses by higher authority. If that leader does not willingly reverse any negative word or curse pronounced, feel free to approach any servant of God with a higher authority. Confess the misdeed with that ex-leader honestly and your efforts to seek peace. James 5:16. Ask the higher authority to pray and break those curses and reverse the negative pronouncements. Once you are in line with the word of God, you can claim the validity of Numbers 23:23, not when you are in error! The higher authority may be led and empowered by God to make peace between you and the former leader.

When we apply these principles, the Kingdom of God is made manifest, the power of the Church is unleashed and Satan is put to shame. This is why Paul told Timothy that we ought to know how to behave ourselves in the Church of the living God which is the ground and Pillar of faith. 1 Timothy 3:15

The Core of Leadership

In order to access the core of true leadership, we need to get back to our working definition:

Leadership is the ability to be used of God to serve His saints and influence them to discover, pursue and fulfil His purpose for their lives. This spiritual paradigm was

instituted by Jesus Christ through teaching and practice which challenged the old religious concept as well as worldly perspectives of leadership.

In effect, Jesus Christ is the center and circumference of true leadership! He is all in all concerning the dealings of God with man! Leadership must be derived from Him; be about Him and point to Him or is not valid.

John the Baptist was a man who knew that this was the sole focus of leadership. Shortly after he baptised Jesus and announced Him to Israel, a paradigm shift of enormous proportions occurred. Some of his own disciples abandoned him for the Messiah. Of the disciples who stuck to him, some were troubled that the very man John had baptised was now pulling more crowds. One day, they came to John and told him that Jesus was the latest craze on the spiritual circuit.

Unfazed, John took his own disciples on a lesson which every servant of God needs to imbibe: Jesus is the Bride Groom who deserves the entire Bride! Everything is about Jesus, John told his incredulous staff. He went on to deliver the killer punch: it is necessary for John (and indeed all of us in leadership) to fade into the background so that Jesus alone will loom large! John 3: 22- 36. It is only when Jesus is lifted up that He will draw all men to Himself.

A few weeks ago, I was shocked when one of the 'Popes' of the Pseudo- Kingdom movement railed against Christ on radio. He was irked that the Church had made Jesus Christ the main issue. According to this man, it was wrong to project Jesus. This author of confusion on what Matthew 6:33 really means then went on to propound the anti Christ theory that rather than preach Christ, the Kingdom of God should be about benefits such as wealth, health security and comfort! As his deluded mega congregation cheered him on, this man spoke such blasphemy that it was obvious that another spirit was at work in him, at least that day.

Other than John, those who know the principles of the Kingdom are united that ultimately, the revelation of divinity in humanity which is manifested as Jesus Christ is the very pivot of Kingdom life. In Jesus Christ, eternity invaded time; divinity became humanity and yesterday, today and tomorrow of humanity met together.

Paul the Apostle received such an awesome revelation of Jesus Christ that he clearly pronounced that he was not ashamed to make Him the be all of his life and ministry. 1 Corinthians 1: 18 – 31. Paul was to institute the paradigm that all should follow him only to the extent that he followed Christ! He then went on to state that there are those who are enemies of the Cross of Jesus Christ whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly and who set their mind on earthly things. Philippians 3: 17 – 21.

Benchmarking the Validity of leadership with Jesus Christ

The validity of leadership is therefore ultimately tested on one unwavering principle: does it point to Jesus Christ (not just any Christ but Him incarnated, suffered, died, rose again and is coming back to establish the fullness of the Kingdom on planet earth!) Does the preaching and proclamation, point to Him? Is the Apostolic unction exercised from Him and is it about Him? Is the Prophetic word uttered coming from the Holy Spirit and does it validate, explain or deviate from the written word? Does the evangelistic unction come from Him and point people to Him or to the preacher? Is the Pastor ministering according to the mind of Christ or engaged in vain humanistic systems of making people happy even when they are hell bound? Will the teacher be able to see that the bible from Genesis to revelation points to this same Jesus or will he try to construct another gospel which is palatable to this generation?

In lifestyle, can we look at a leader intently and in spite of any peculiar area of human deficiency, see in him or her attributes that show Christ clearly? Is it possible to see in a preacher's lifestyle and doctrine an instinctively reminder of Jesus Christ and His words? Are we going to see a burning passion to grow in grace and to make the whole counsel of God known to all? Are we going to see humility? Are we going to see a lifestyle which is dependent on God alone? Are we going to see a man or woman for whom money has no controlling influence and who is not worldly? Are we going to see one who lives as if Christ is coming back soon and will take account of all spiritual gifts, callings, opportunities and even the very life that is given is treated as an asset on loan? Does the life of the preacher convict you of sin, righteousness and judgement?

Or are we going to see raw ambition, love of money, love of pre-eminence, competition with other ministers, strife and a clearly worldly life style? Looking at a leader, can we see an undue focus on fashion and the dainties of the world and a heart which is disconnected to the Christ of the bible? 1 John 2: 15-17; 2 Corinthians 6:14 – 18.

Are we going to see a leader who emphasises the truth of the ages that Jesus is coming back to put down all rebellion and rule over this planet or are we going to see one who discredits scripture on this critical subject? 2 Peter chapters 2 and 3. When you encounter the leader at close quarters in word or deed, is there a halo like quality which emits godliness or are you going to see satanic suggestions and gestures?

Judgement ahead!

In the Old Testament, any prophet who tried to lead Israel astray from the only true God faced the death penalty. In the New Testament, they may not receive divine justice instantly. They may even seem to suffer and grow 'mega churches' However, let no one be in doubt that though the Lord is long suffering, those who persist in misleading His people will ultimately face eternity in hell if they do not repent before they die. There is a second category: those who live right personally but labour with the wrong substances and deviate from building the Kingdom with the pattern and materials prescribed in the word of God. Such people may squeeze into heaven but their so called 'great works' shall be consumed with the holy fire of judgement! 1 Corinthians 3: 10 – 15.

Down the Wire with true Leadership

Ultimately, true leadership is a gift from God. Those who are called may fear or tremble when they encounter God at first. So was the case with Moses and saints down the ages. However, as they receive assurance from He who calls, they grow in grace and confidence.

They are placed in the House hold of faith to influence (not force) the saints to know their God, surrender their all to Him and seek His Kingdom and its righteousness with all their hearts. The saints are to live in unity with fellow brethren and give their all to fulfil the Great Commission of Jesus Christ which is central to why we are left on earth. In so doing, the saints are to trust Him completely to take care of their temporal needs while in the Body, knowing that as a good Father, God has their best interests at heart and will supply all they need. Matthew 6: 6 – 15; 25 – 34; John 17: 6- 26; Romans 14: 17-19. Those who are yielded to a leader to influence them to receive and live out this reality are the flock assigned to that leader. They are the sheep who hear the voice of Jesus Christ through that particular vessel, yield to same and submit in love and trust to the divine processing. John 10: 16, 26 -29. These saints will be led of the Holy Spirit to **Come** to the leader; **Connect** spiritually with the Leader; **Abide** with the Leader through thick and thin and **Abound** under his/her covering. This is how strong, stable yet dynamic ministries come to be!

My counsel to leaders is simple: anyone who physically sits under you but does not display the characteristic above may well be assigned to another vessel to lead them into the fullness of Christ. Clutching on to them will drain your anointing and potentially cause you to miss the best of God. If no matter what you do, they will find fault; if the words you speak are not having the desired impact and you have checked yourself and are living right, the most spiritual solution is to meet with such persons and willingly release them so that they can locate their true leaders. You will be surprised at how the ministry will grow when those not assigned to you are released from the fellowship!

If you sit under any leadership for up to three years and do not sense this kind of connection which drives you to submit willingly and whole hearted to this divine processing, it is obvious that he or she is not your divinely appointed leader. Prayerfully and humbly seek a release.

Sincerity with God and self is however essential in this whole process. The question is: the one who feels led to leave a leader, are you sure you are driven by the Holy Spirit or by self? We must always bear in mind that one day, we will appear before the judgement seat of Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:10. When that happens, the secrets of all hearts will be exposed. It just may be too late then to repent! While we are alive therefore, there is an extraordinary opportunity to repent, make restitution where necessary and make things right with God and the leaders He has set over us.

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Why

Insert extracts from the ordination manual

These questions are answered in the various presentations:

How is the Church supposed to function at the congregational, city and national/regional levels?

Why is leadership still necessary when the whole organs of the Body ought to function?

What form of leadership does the Bible teach?

What kind of leadership did Christ teach and model?

What is the Jesus Leadership Development Process?

This course will help participants to make the essential transition to servant leadership whose strengths will lie in the depth of their intimacy with God, strong spiritual foundation and the anointing of the Holy Ghost which makes a way for them.