



## Membership † Discipleship † **Leadership**

Proverbs 29:2 *"When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; But when a wicked man rules, the people groan."*

I am a leader of \_\_\_\_\_.

A person who can influence, inspire and inform others by providing wisdom and understanding to reach a particular purpose. A leader must trust in the LORD with all their heart, lean not on their own understanding; in all their ways acknowledge Him, and allow Him to direct their paths. Proverbs 3:5-6

## “Rated “R” Relationships”

† Proverbs 4:7 *"Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding"*

To be an effective leader, you must value relationships. If those who are following you cannot relate to you, that can cause several challenges. Rated “R” leadership is for the spiritually mature. Parental guidance is highly recommended. You should follow those who follow Christ so you can lead others *to* Christ. The ultimate objective for any leader is to lead others to Christ. If you’re leading some who already have a relationship with Christ, what are you doing to enhance their Christian journey? Having a spiritual covering to hold you accountable is very critical in the Kingdom of God. Let’s use Eli and Samuel as an example. When Hannah presented Samuel to Eli, it became Eli’s responsibility to guide and direct him in the will of the Lord. However, Eli’s sons were corrupt and did not know the Lord (1 Sam. 2:12). But under Eli’s guidance, Samuel ministered and grew before the Lord (1 Sam. 2:18, 21). Have you ever wondered why those of your household failed to see what God was doing in your life? How have you handled the disbelief and disobedience of those you’ve shared your life with? Why do you think Eli was able to raise Samuel upright before the Lord while his own sons failed to walk right before God?

**Rebuke if necessary to prevent judgment from God.** Eli heard everything his sons did and said to them, *"Why do you do such things? For I hear of your evil dealings from all the people. No, my sons! If one man sins against another, God will judge him. But if a man sins against the LORD, who will intercede for him?"* They did not heed the voice of their father, because the LORD desired to kill them. Meanwhile, Samuel grew in stature, and in favor both with the LORD and men (1 Sam. 2:22-26). Eli rebuked his sons for their wrong doings but they did not obey their father's directives and they died. Rebuke comes as a notification that your sin has been observed. Therefore, it needs to be acknowledged and corrected to avoid eventual judgments.

**Restrain the natural man to revive the Spirit man.** The LORD said to Samuel *"Behold, I will do something in Israel at which both ears of everyone who hears it will tingle. In that day I will perform against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. For I have told him that I will judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knows, because his sons made themselves vile, and he did not restrain them. And therefore I have sworn to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be atoned for by sacrifice or offering forever."* (1 Sam. 3:11-14). This can appear to be a little confusing because we see in the chapter above that Eli was not pleased with his son’s behavior. He rebuked them but he failed to restrain them. God judged Eli for the sins he knew about. As the leader, he had a responsibility to guide his son’s in the right direction. You can’t just tell people what to do, you have to teach them what to do. When you know better, you do better. When you do better, you become better and the Spirit is revived!

† Romans 12:2 “... be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

**Reconcile the relationship and receive redemption.** God expects his leaders to be vigilant (1 Pet. 5:8). The enemy seeks to sift us as wheat (Lk. 22:31). When we’re divided it’s hard to stand against the wiles of the devil. God’s Word demonstrates how much He values relationships. If someone says, “I love God” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? (Jn. 4:20). Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. *First* be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift (Mt. 5:23-24). Most times, we allow relationships to create so much stress and tension that it’s hard to reconcile. Pride overrides what the Lord says. When this occurs, our decisions are no longer based on the word of God. Our decisions are dictated by emotions that are controlled by betrayal, bitterness and bondage. God desires to have a relationship with you. Remember, if you say you love God but hate your brother, you are a liar. Your love for God is demonstrated by how you love others. Study the Bible for supporting scriptures and meditate on those scriptures this week with expectation of reconciliation.

How can you reconcile those broken relationships so that you can receive redemption from God?

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All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:18)

† Psalm 119:11 “Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.”

Day/ Week of	Daily Reading	Which Bible verse had the most impact?
Monday <input type="checkbox"/>	Ephesians 1-3	
Tuesday <input type="checkbox"/>	Ephesians 4-6	
Wednesday <input type="checkbox"/>	Philippians 1-4	
Thursday <input type="checkbox"/>	Colossians 1-4	
Friday <input type="checkbox"/>	1 Thessalonians 1-5	
Saturday <input type="checkbox"/>	2 Thessalonians 1-3	
Sunday <input type="checkbox"/>	1 Timothy 1-3	

Submit questions to MCCquestions@yahoo.com

