

Oakland Church of Christ Sermon Series:  
Church Leadership  
October 13, 20, 27, 2024



1. The Character of a Leader – John 13:12-17
2. The Qualifications of an Elder – 1 Timothy 3:-7,  
Titus 1:5-9
3. Deacons – A Life of Service – 1 Timothy 3:8-13

Bible Class 9 AM  
Worship Service 10 AM

# Old Testament Leadership

- ◆ **Moses – Humility**

- ◆ Numbers 12:3 - Now the man Moses was very humble, more than all men who were on the face of the earth (NKJV)

- ◆ **Joshua - Courageous**

- ◆ Joshua 1:9 - Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

- ◆ **David – Man After God’s Heart**

- ◆ Acts 13:22 - And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, ‘I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.’

Jesus – Our Example for Leadership

# Servant Leadership

- ◆ **John 13:12-17** - When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, “Do you understand what I have done to you? 13 You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. 14 If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 **For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.** 16 Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 **If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.**

# In Jesus – We Have Seen the Father

- ◇ **John 14:6-11** - Jesus said to him, **“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.** 7 If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”  
8 Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” 9 Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? **Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?** 10 **Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?** The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. 11 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

# Jesus Leads Not as the World Leads

- ◇ **Matthew 20:25-28** - But Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. 26 It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, 28 **even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”**

# New Testament Church Leadership

## Examples from the Bible

# Peter and John

## Give Without Any Expectation of Payment

- ◆ **Acts 3:1-8** - Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour 2 And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple. 3 Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. 4 And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." 5 And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. 6 But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!" 7 And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. 8 And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.



# Peter and the Apostles - Courage

- ◇ **Acts 5:27-29** - And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, 28 saying, “We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us.” 29 But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men.
- ◇ **Acts 5:40-42** - and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. 41 Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. 42 And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.

# Humility, Outreach, Mercy

◆ **Luke 6:32-36** - “If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. 33 And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. 34 And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. 35 But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. 36 Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

# Epaphroditus

◆ **Philippians 2:25-29** - I have thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to my need, 26 for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. 27 Indeed he was ill, near to death. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. 28 I am the more eager to send him, therefore, that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. 29 So receive him in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men, 30 for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me.

# Epaphroditus

- ◆ **Colossians 4:12** - Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, **always struggling on your behalf in his prayers**, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God.

# Leaders Follow the Example of Paul

- ◆ **1 Corinthians 4:15-16** – For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. 16 I urge you, then, be imitators of me.
- ◆ **1 Corinthians 11:1** – Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.
- ◆ **Philippians 3:17** – Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.
- ◆ **1 Thessalonians 1:6-7** - And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, 7 so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.

# Leaders Follow the Example of Paul

- ◆ **1 Corinthians 9:19-23** - For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. 20 To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. 21 To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. 22 To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. 23 I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

# Barnabas - Encouragement

- ◇ **Acts 4:36** - Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus,
- ◇ **Acts 9:27** - But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus.
- ◇ **Acts 11:22-24** - The report of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. 23 When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose, 24 for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord.

# Aquila and Priscilla – Husband and Wife

- ◆ **Acts 18:1-3** - After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. 2 And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. And he went to see them, 3 and because he was of the same trade he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade.
- ◆ **Acts 18:24-26** - Now a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was an eloquent man, competent in the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord. And being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John. He began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.
- ◆ **Romans 16:3-4** - Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, who risked their necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks but all the churches of the Gentiles give thanks as well.



# Titus – Mentoring Men

- ◆ **Titus 2:1-2** - But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. 2 Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness.
- ◆ **Titus 2:6** - Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled.

# Titus – Mentoring Women

- ◆ **Titus 2:3-5** - Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, 4 and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, 5 to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.

# Titus – Set the Example for the Church

- ◆ **Titus 2:7-8** - Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us.