

“Front Office”

Romans 13:1-5; Luke 22:24-27

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- One job I have no desire to do-- be President of the United States
- Leadership is Essential for the health of a country or church
- Leadership has taken a bad rap in recent years
- Some have rejected the need for leaders in a congregation

Front Office

A. Biblical Understanding on Leadership.

1. Leaders are God’s Servants -- Romans 13:1-5

- Romans 13:1-5-- *“Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. For he is God’s minister for you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God’s minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience sake”*
- a. All authorities have been established by God.
 - John 19:11-- *“You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above.”*
- b. The power is to promote good and punish evil-- vv. 3-4
 - Romans 13:3-4-- *“For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same. For he is God’s minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God’s minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.”*
- c. Authorities, no matter how they use or abuse their power, are still considered “God’s Servants”.--4, 6
 - Romans 13:4-- *“For he is **God’s minister** to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is **God’s minister**, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.”*
 - Romans 13:6-- *“For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are **God’s ministers** attending continually to this very thing.”*
 - 1) As God’s servants, they are answerable to God for their decisions and actions.
 - 2) As they are God’s servants, we are to submit to and support them in their work. v. 1,5-7
 - 1 Timothy 2:1-2-- *“Therefore, I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and for all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.”*
 - 1 Timothy 2:4-- *“God our Savior...desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”*
 - Hebrews 13:17-- *“Obey those who rule over you and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give an account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.”*

2. Leaders are to be “Servant-leaders”-- Luke 22:24-27

- Luke 22:24-27-- *“Now there was a dispute among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest. And He said to them, ‘The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those who exercise authority over them are called “benefactors”. But not so among you; on the contrary, he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves. For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the One who serves.”*
- a. Leadership style of the world-- “exercise authority over”
- b. Christ’s leadership style-- “bottom up”

- Matthew 20:28-- *"Son of man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."*
 - Philippians 2:3-5-- *"Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interest of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus."*
- c. "Bottom up" leadership style applied to the Church by Peter-- 1 Peter 5:2-3
- 1 Peter 5:2-3-- *"Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock."*

B. Two Gifts to Serve the Organizational Needs

1. The Gift of Leadership -- Romans 12:8

- Romans 12:6-8-- *"Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness."*
- a. Definition of Spiritual Gift of Leadership: *"the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to set goals in accordance with God's purpose for the future and to communicate these goals in such a way that the church voluntarily and harmoniously works together to accomplish these goals for the glory of God."*
- b. Three Characteristics of those with the gift of Leadership
- 1) Visionaries
 - 2) Motivators
 - 3) Delegators

2. The Gift of Administration – 1 Corinthians 12:28

- 1 Corinthians 12:28-- *"And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues."* The Spirit of God gives to some 'gifts of administration'
- a. Definition of Gift of Administration: *"the special God-given ability to understand clearly the immediate and long-range goals of a particular unit of the Body of Christ and to devise and execute effective plans for the accomplishment of these goals."*
- b. Contrasts between Gifts of Leadership and Administration
- c. Combination of the two gifts into one man—Nehemiah
- 1) VISION of rebuilding the wall—Neh. 1
 - 2) Vision translated into a PLAN—Neh. 2
 - 3) Vision cast to others, who buy into it—Neh. 2
 - 4) Division of work—Delegation—Neh. 3
 - 5) Problems and obstacles overcome—Neh. 4-6
 - Nehemiah 4:8-- *"all of them conspired together to come and attack Jerusalem and create confusion."*
 - Nehemiah 5:15-16a-- *"But the former governors who were before me laid burdens on the people, and took from them bread and wine, besides forty shekels of silver. Yes, even their servants bore rule over the people, but I did not do so, because of the fear of God. Indeed I also continued the work on this wall."*
 - 6) Work accomplished—Neh. 6
 - 7) God gets the glory—the credit. Neh. 6
 - Nehemiah 6:16-- *"And it happened, when all our enemies heard of it, and all the nations around us saw these things, that they were very disheartened in their own eyes; for they perceived that this work was done by our God."*

3. Practical Evaluation: How do I know if I have these gifts?

a. Gift of Leadership

- 1) I willingly accept responsibility for groups that lack direction or leadership.
- 2) I can effectively organize people to achieve specific goals which I perceive to be God's plan.
- 3) Because I can adjust my leadership style, I can motivate a wide variety of people to work together to meet a goal or accomplish a task.
- 4) I am able to clarify a vision for ministry, and decisively manage people and resources to bring it about.
- 5) I feel alone in making certain needed decisions.
- 6) I am able to live with disagreement.

b. Gift of Administration

- 1) I enjoy learning about management issues and how organizations function.
- 2) Once I know a goal, I like to develop a plan or strategy to meet it.
- 3) I can handle many details at one time in order to accomplish a task.
- 4) I see people as gifted and valuable resources to be coordinated for greater effectiveness in the Church.
- 5) I feel frustrated and impatient when I see disorganization.
- 6) I am able to identify and effectively use resources to accomplish tasks.