



Christian Leaders Bible Study

Study Guide



Part One: Qualifications of Christian Leaders
Part Two: Priorities and Motives of Christian Leaders
Part Three: Characteristics of Christian Leaders

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Christian Leaders Bible Study Part One
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Qualifications of Christian Leaders

1 Timothy 3:1-10

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, Thank You for calling each of us to be leaders, whether it is in the corporate office or to our children, or to those You place in our lives at various times and in various situations, and everywhere in between. As I study the qualifications of a Christian leader, lead me to rejoice in those areas in which I excel by Your grace and strengthen me in those areas where work still needs to be done. Equip me to be the Christian leader You would have me to be. In the precious name of Jesus I pray. Amen!

The purpose of leadership qualifications is two-fold:

1. To provide guidelines for selecting leaders (Acts 6:3).
2. To provide spiritual life checkpoints for Christian leaders (1 Corinthians 9:27).

THE DESIRE OF A LEADER (1 Timothy 3:1)

Paul says two significant things about a Christian's desire to be a leader.

1. It is OK to want to be a leader in the church, even though it seems contrary to our way of thinking that everything must be done with some show of humility, either fake or real. "If called, I will serve," we humbly say. We sometimes really want to serve for all the right reasons and that is OK.
2. With the _____ there must also be the discipline to grow in our Christ-likeness.

THE QUALIFICATIONS OF THOSE WHO ASPIRE TO POSITIONS OF LEADERSHIP
(vv. 2-10)

1. _____ reproach
2. _____ of one _____
3. _____-minded, _____-controlled, respectable

4. Hospitable
5. Able to _____
6. Not a _____
7. Not _____, but _____
8. Not _____
9. Not a lover of _____
10. Must _____ his own household well. From your own experience and from verses 4-5 of our text, what would be included?
11. Not be a _____ convert
 Strengths of a new Christian in this regard

 Weakness of a new Christian in this regard
12. Well thought of by _____
13. Not _____-tongued
14. Not _____ for dishonest gain
15. Hold the _____ (the deep truths) of the faith with a clear conscience
16. Be _____ first

BRAINSTORM CHARACTERISTICS THAT ARE MOST DESIRABLE IN A LEADER

1. Brainstorm with the whole group to make a list of the characteristics that are most desirable in a leader.
2. Come to a consensus on the five most important characteristics for any leader, from the list you have generated.
3. Now make a list of the five most important characteristics of a Christian leader.
4. Has your list changed? If yes, how has it changed and why has it changed?

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING POSITIVE

1. Christianity demands ultimate optimism concerning what God can accomplish in our lives. *"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me"* (Philippians 4:13). See also Romans 8:28, 38-39; Matthew 17:20; John 14:12-13; Ephesians 3:20-21.
2. It lays the foundation for success because positive people:
 - A. Overcome inferiority complexes.
 - B. Listen to new ideas and evaluate them carefully.
 - C. See opportunities and seize them.
 - D. Welcome challenging problems.
 - E. Overcome problems.

Here is a positive way to see “problems.” How does each of these words help us see our problems in a more positive light?

Predictors

Reminders

Opportunities

Blessings

Lessons

Everywhere

Messages

Solvable

CLOSING PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, Thank You for equipping each and every one of us for service and leadership in Your kingdom, no matter what our task may be. We pray for Your guidance as we serve humbly and intentionally, following the example set forth by Your Son, our Savior, who humbly served on earth while desiring to do Your will, even to the cross.

Guide us and lead us as we serve wholeheartedly, as working for the Lord, not for man. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Christian Leaders Bible Study Part Two **Study Guide**

Priorities and Motives of Christian Leaders

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, As we consider the priorities and motives of a Christian leader, help us to take a long, hard look at the priorities and motivations that make us tick as Your dear children. When they are messed up, lead us to repent of those sins and restore to us a right spirit as we continue to serve others and You as You first served us. Amen.

PRIORITIES FOR CHRISTIAN LEADERS

The two questions we need to answer first in regard to positions of leadership, and even to life in general lived as a child of God, are:

1. What am I doing? (What are my priorities? How do I spend my time and my energy, both inwardly and outwardly?)
2. Why am I doing it? (What are my motives? Why do I do what I do?)

If you have your priorities straight (if you know what comes first) then it will be much easier to realize your goals.

Pareto Principle: “If your priorities are right, 20% of the effort will give you 80% of the results.” In other words, it is not how hard you work, but how smart you work.

Example: Forty-five years ago my parents thought it would be a good idea for me to take piano lessons. They wanted me to be a good piano player so they had me go to lessons every week and practice every day for at least 30 minutes. Forty-five years ago I thought it was a pretty poor idea for me to take piano lessons. My parents’ priorities were for me to learn how to play the piano. My priorities were to spend time outside playing. What were the results? After a few years of lessons and fighting about practicing, they gave up on their dream for me and I don’t know how to play the piano, for which I am incredibly sad even to this day. If their priorities would have been my priorities, I would have practiced the scales, I would have learned what notes on the page would correspond to what keys on the piano, and I would be able to play the piano. If my priorities would have been “right,” putting in 20% of the efforts would have given me 80% of the results, and I would have fulfilled a dream I have to this day. So, what does God’s Word say would be some priorities for a Christian leader?

Priority 1: Discipline yourself for godliness. (Godliness = holy living, the Christian life, growth in faith and relationship with Christ.) Read 1 Timothy 4:7-16.

How is this done?

Verse 7

Verse 9

Verse 12

Verse 13

Verse 14

Romans 12

Ephesians 4

Verse 16

What are the results?

Verse 15

Verse 16

Priority 2: Involve others to help you in the work of ministry. Read Acts 6:1-4.

Why is this necessary and important?

How is this done?

Verse 2

Verse 3

What are the results?

Verse 4

Priority 3: Equip (give the tools to) people to do ministry. Read Matthew 10:1-42.

How is this done?

Verse 1

Verses 2-42

What are the results?

MOTIVES AND THE CHRISTIAN LEADER

For Christians, the priority question cannot be separated from the motive question. Jesus clearly taught that the right motives were more important than the right moves. This is why He often had conflicts with the religious leaders of His day. They were concerned with actions and He was concerned with attitudes.

1. The evidence of wrong motives. Read 1 Timothy 6:3-5.

Verse 3

Verse 4

2. The nature (qualities/characteristics) of wrong motives. Read 1 Timothy 6:4-5b.

Verse 4

Verse 5b

3. The nature of right motives. Read 1 Timothy 1:5.

4. The result of wrong motives. Read 1 Timothy 6:9-10.

Verse 9

1 Timothy 3:7

2 Timothy 2:26

Verse 10

CONCLUSION

1. The leader whose motives are right, but whose priorities are wrong, will demonstrate God's love but frustrate God's work.
2. The leader whose priorities are right, but whose motives are wrong, will be able to do only what is possible for man.

3. The leader whose motives are right and priorities are right will demonstrate God's love and will also develop God's work.

FOR DISCUSSION AS TIME PERMITS

What priorities (other than the ones listed above) do you see that are important for a Christian leader?

Priorities: As leaders, what excuses do we use for not adhering to the three priorities listed above? For example: not enough time, it is easier to do it myself, etc.

Motives: Discuss further the relationship between motives and priorities.

CLOSING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, As I think of the ways in which You have equipped me to be a leader and the opportunities You have given to me to lead, I thank You and pray that through the working of the Holy Spirit in my life through the Means of Grace, that You would mold and shape me into the leader that You would have me to be. Feed me, dear Father, with Your wisdom and Your understanding for my good and the good of all I serve. I pray that You would bless me, dear Father, so that I may be a blessing to those You put in my life and those I will touch through my leadership. I pray this in the precious name of my crucified and risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen!!

Christian Leaders Bible Study Part Three
Study Guide

Characteristics of Christian Leaders

OPENING PRAYER

Suggestions would be to pray for the leaders in your LWML group, zone, district, and national; your congregation, district, synod, community, schools, city, state, our nation, and world.

CHARACTERISTICS OF CHRISTIAN LEADERS

Discuss the following leadership characteristics with insights found in the corresponding Bible verses. To discuss them in more depth, this study can be broken into several sections.

1. Christian leaders walk with Jesus Christ as Savior and intentionally surrender to Him as Lord.
 - A. John 1:12 and 3:3, 16
 - B. Romans 10:9-10
 - C. James 4:7-8

2. Christian leaders are distinguished by certain qualifications.
 - A. Timothy 3:1-7
 - B. Titus 1:6-9

3. Christian leaders are grounded in the Bible and believe it is the Word of God.
 - A. 2 Timothy 3:16-17
 - B. Hebrews 4:12
 - C. Ephesians 6:17

4. Christian leaders apply their knowledge and practice obedience.
 - A. James 1:22
 - B. John 14:21

- C. 2 Corinthians 10:5
5. Christian leaders exercise faith. They move beyond intellectual belief to dependency on God.
- A. Hebrews 11:1, 6
 - B. 2 Corinthians 4:18 and 5:7
 - C. Matthew 8:5-13
 - D. Proverbs 3:5-6
6. Christian leaders communicate with God.
- A. Matthew 6:9-13
 - B. Mark 11:24, James 1:5-8
 - C. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Philippians 4:6-7
 - D. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, Romans 8:28
 - E. James 4:2
 - F. Ephesians 6:18
7. Christian leaders are faithful stewards and exercise their spiritual gifts.
- A. Matthew 25:14-30
 - B. Luke 12:48
 - C. 1 Corinthians 12:7, 1 Peter 4:10
 - D. Malachi 3:8-10
8. Christian leaders accept responsibilities as a leader and servant. They are available, humble, and willing to be used by God for His glory.
- A. Isaiah 6:8

B. Mark 10:43-45

C. Philippians 2:3-17

9. Christian leaders are relationally oriented. They are approachable, consistent, and considerate. They demonstrate and articulate the value and relevance of God's Word to their lives.

A. Mark 1:14-18

B. John 4:4-26

C. Ephesians 4:15, 29

10. Christian leaders regularly fellowship and worship with other believers.

A. Hebrews 10:24-25

B. Proverbs 27:17

C. Galatians 6:2

D. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

11. Christian leaders possess a heart for evangelism and a vision for disciple-making.

A. Matthew 28:16-20

B. 1 Peter 3:15

C. 2 Timothy 2:2

12. Christian leaders are consistent in walking with the Lord and applying His principles.

A. Hebrews 5:14

B. Romans 12:1-2

C. Galatians 5:22-26, 2 Peter 1:5-9

13. Christian leaders are committed to continual growth in their new life in Christ.

- A. Galatians 2:20-21
- B. 1 Timothy 4:8
- C. Hebrews 5:11 – 6:3
- D. 2 Corinthians 3:18, 1 Peter 1:6-7

14. Christian leaders love others.

- A. 1 Corinthians 13:1-8
- B. 1 Peter 4:8

CLOSING PRAYER

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge -- that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God (Ephesians 3:14-19 NIV).



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