

# THE BULLETIN

## Christian Leadership, Part 1

The question of leadership seems to be as old as Adam and Eve: Who's going to take the lead? It has been a source of strife for mankind down through history.

Leadership is certainly not a bad thing to aspire to, though; it's God's own idea. God has established civil authority (e.g., Romans 13:1), home authority (e.g., Genesis 3:16), and authority in the church (e.g., Ephesians 1:21-23 and 1 Timothy 3:1ff). The catch is that God will call every leader—civil, domestic, or religious—to account for his or her leadership (Heb. 13:17), so it needs to be exercised correctly. But how is it done correctly?

Sadly, the way that authority is usually exercised is not the way God wants, but the easiest way that "works". As a result the only examples many of us have had for leadership are badly flawed: corporate examples, selfish examples, abusive examples, manipulative examples, and worse. That is, until we learned about the Lord.

For a few weeks I will use this space to talk about good Christian leadership principles, including elder qualifications.

The essence of leadership is influence. Do you have influence over anyone in this world? Then you are in some sense leading.

There are different sorts of leadership and motivations. Worldly leaders are usually motivated by simply wanting the privileges, the glory, the honor, and the ability to "call the shots"—getting to be the "lead dog" rather than taking orders from others. And they often exercise that influence with money, force, threats, lies, or other forms of manipulation—the list of tools for "lording it over others" is long.

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### The Manchester church of Christ

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[mht\\_church@comcast.net](mailto:mht_church@comcast.net)  
[mhtchurch.org](http://mhtchurch.org)

#### Our Ministers:

Park Linscomb 540-0287  
Mark Casella (501) 388-1687

#### Our Elders:

Barry Fogal 487-2387  
Gerry Millette 497-3105

#### Our Deacons:

Finance - Tony Casella  
Education - Doug Paul  
Building & Grounds - Will Hamel / Pete Steffensen  
Benevolence & Outreach - David Skerry

#### Regularly Scheduled Services

Sunday worship: 9:30am  
Sunday Bible class: 11:00am  
Sunday evening: 6:00pm  
Wednesday Bible class: 7:00pm



We have a God who delights in impossibilities!



“So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.” Galatians 6:10, NAS95.

**If you're a visitor to our church, welcome!** If you have questions, we welcome them; please don't hesitate to ask Park Linscomb our minister (the really tall guy) or any other church member.

### WHAT'S GOING ON?

#### SEARCH FOR NEW ELDERS

**ELDER SEARCH:** The Elders announced they would like to search for additional elders to join them in shepherding the flock here. Park will preach another lesson on the eldership today. Following his second lesson, the process for suggesting names will be formally opened. Please be praying for spiritually sound, good and caring men to be added to the eldership.

**Our Annual Christmas Party** will be held on December 10, 5:30 - 9:00pm at the Skerry home. This is a wonderful time for our church family to gather and enjoy one another's company. Yankee Swap \$10 or less. You can come and not participate in the Yankee Swap and just enjoy the fellowship. Don't miss it!

**TEEN CHRISTMAS PARTY** will be held on December 17 at Mark & Ann's. Bring a White Elephant gift, no more than \$10.

**MNFM** - Dec. 5, Johnson's are cooking.

### OTHER NOTES

- **WEDDING ANNIVERSARY** - Charles & Sue Burdette celebrate 50 yrs of marriage on Dec. 30. Their children have asked that we help 'shower them with love' by sending wishes to them. These need to be sent by Dec. 15 to Dan & Carrissa Burdette, 809 Bayou Vista Dr., Marion, RA 72364. **This is a surprise for them, so please keep the secret.**
- **COME & GO RECEPTION** for David & Kristin Paul, Dec. 30 at the Paul's.
- **WEDDING INVITATION** from Sarah Bell in the foyer.
- **GIVING TREE** - watch for it so we can get all the 'goodies' back by Dec. 11. This is for the entire congregation. In this season of thanksgiving and sharing, let's each do our part.
- On **Dec. 25** there will be one worship service at 10am, no Bible class or evening service.

### HELP NEEDED

#### Snow Removal / Ground Care

A signup sheet is posted for Snow Removal (maybe you get lucky and it doesn't snow your week!!!) This building belongs to all and we need to tend to the exterior. Bring the kids to work as a family. It's a grand way to serve the Lord together.

#### Wednesday Night Supper:

This is a grand opportunity for **you** to "step up to the plate" (pun intended) and serve the church. *If you are willing to help* please tell Kathy, Park or Mark or call the church office.

#### Lord's Supper To Shut Ins:

Volunteers are needed beginning in December, *now*.

### SYMPATHY

To the Potter's at this time. A Memorial Service will be held at the building, Monday, Dec. 12.

### THANK YOU

- To our teachers who prepare their classes and share God's word with young and old.
- To those who open their homes to our teens

### ELECTRONIC LIBRARY

We have added media to the library. Please come use out assets. Recently added are CDs from ladies' retreat and Dr. Joe's lessons.

### PRAYER

**NEW PRAYER CONCERNS:** for the selection of additional elders, for the Potter family, in their loss, , for Thom & Deb Forestburg, Gage Dumas  
**ADDITIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS** are on the back page of the Worship Insert



# A Word of Encouragement

“For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it.”  
Hebrews 2:1. NAS95.

## CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP, PART 1

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But Jesus drew a sharp contrast between worldly leadership and godly leadership, Mark 10:42-45 “Calling [the apostles] to Himself, Jesus said to them, ‘You know that those who are recognized as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them; and their great men exercise authority over them. But it is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant; and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.’” There’s a difference in both motivation and substance in Christian leadership. Let’s take a look at what some of those differences are.

Jesus says it begins with the simple motivation of service (Mk. 10:42ff), seeking the best interests of others. This is a drastic contrast to the self-centered motivation of worldly leadership; it truly turns the worldly norm of leadership upside down. When the Christian assumes leadership of any kind (politics, church, home, or friendship), he needs to be motivated like Jesus, Who did not come to be served, but to serve. This motivation naturally leads to influencing men Christ’s unique way. The rest of this article—and the following ones—will be talking about what this means and how the disciple of Jesus is expected to lead with the best interests of others at heart.

One of the first things to understand about Christian leadership is that it first follows. That sentence may seem a little odd or awkward—you might want to read it over again—but what I’m trying to get at is that good Christian leaders must first understand the concept of following God first and foremost, above all others. If you don’t learn this, you do not need to lead. Think about it: Jesus *submitted* to the Father (Philippians 2:5ff and Hebrews 5:8), the apostles could bind and loose only what the Lord Himself had

*already* bound and loosed (Matthew 18:18), the church (and her elders) must *submit* to the head of the church, Jesus (Ephesians 1:21-23), etc. Not learning how to submit and follow is the first step toward tyranny, autocracy, and cultism (in religion). Christian leadership understands that nobody but God has the right to declare right, justice, and judgment. When worldly leaders forget this, we end up with sinful laws or judgments that legalize or allow things that are immoral and wrong. So also with churches and homes. All good Christian leaders must first learn how to truly submit to and follow the Lord.

And lastly (for this installment) Christian leadership is humble. Humility isn’t about poor self-esteem; it’s about not thinking more of ourselves than we ought (Rom. 12:3) and a willingness to serve in every occasion. When the apostles were arguing over who’d wash everyone else’s feet, Jesus demonstrated (John 13) practical, everyday humility. Paul (read Philippians 2:1-11) encourages every all disciples to be humble servants by pointing to Christ’s own humility, although He was/is equal to God, there was no service beneath Him for our benefit—not even the pain, humiliation, and death of a cross. When worldly leaders refuse to get their hands dirty, Christian leaders humbly serve, even when the service is “beneath their station in life”.

Is your motivation right? Have you learned how to follow? Are you willing to serve others with their best interests at heart? Yes? Then you’re on your way to good Christian leadership. No? You’ve got something to work on. Remember, “...leaders...will give an account...” (Hebrews 13:17).

Park Linscomb



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Calendars for December can

be found in the foyer.

- Devo on December 3rd from 7-9 at Mark and Ann's house.
- Giving Tree is located in the back of the foyer. Grab an index card or two if you would like to help out and then sign the sheet next to the number you grab so we know what is accounted for. We need items back by the 11th.
- December 9th is a mystery Night. Either there will be the Church Elves on a mission or movie night from 7-9pm. We will know by the 7th.
- Teen Lunch on the 11th

Teen Christmas Party on December 17th from 5-8:30 pm. Please have a \$10 White Elephant item.

### Food for Thought...

"as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal." 2 Cor 4:18.

There are a lot of things that are going on during this time of year. Christmas is coming and so is the shopping, families, presents, parties, school work, travel, and so many more things... like decorating the house and breaking ornaments. It is really easy during this time of year to loose focus on the things that are truly important and to focus on God. When we get all of these different things pulling our left arm one way, the right arm another, our left leg somewhere else, and the right one even further away it becomes harder to give

everything the justice that it deserves.

One thing that is important to remember is that the things of this work are transient. You might be curious about what that means. Transient things are short term, temporary, or a moment in time. The entire holiday season provides us with many transient things that fight for our time. Even as all of these things happen we need to keep our eyes on the things that matter. The things that are eternal. God, Jesus, Our Faith.

The seasons will change, the holidays will pass and so will all of the little things that keep us busy. When school, chores, presents, parties, and everything else pass what will you be left with? During this time it is important for us to look at the unseen and to focus on Christ. We need to put our faith, time, and energy in Christ. Are you letting Christ, or everything else be the center of your life?

-Mark

### *Thinking it over...*

**Thank you Mr. Potter for all of the lessons and time you spent with our church Family.**

### Family Bible Reading and Congregational Calendar for Dec 4 - Dec 10

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 - 9:30am Worship 11am - Bible Class 6pm - Evening Worship	5 -	6 - A	7 - 6pm - Supper 7pm - Bible Class	8- Brain Day - B	9- Linda Carroll - BD Sharon Abood - BD	10 -