

Theology of Christian Leadership (1/8/13, TCP)

All leadership derives from God

You shall have no other gods before me;
You shall love the LORD your God
with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength

Our leadership in the Church responds to God's direction

Vocation-responding to God's calls to us
Discernment- listening for God's guidance
Stewardship- managing our responsibilities as stewards of God's resources
Humility, Service & Sacrifice-it's not all about us & our self-protection;
Christian leadership involves vulnerability, self-giving and sacrifice

Steward Leadership

- Not just serving the people, but serving God first.
- *Leading* may take them in a new direction.

Some examples from Holy Scriptures:

Moses

- Exodus 3: Moses' call: God assures Moses only with "I will be with you"
- God gives Aaron to help Moses
- God does the saving (not Moses)
- Numbers 11: Moses can't do it all, so the Spirit of God is shared with elders & others

Judges

- Including Gideon, Deborah & Samson
- All took action when needed (but their personal faults were risks too)

Kings

- The institution of the Monarchy helped unify Israel.
- But it amplified the problems when they turned away from God.

Prophets

- Called the kings & people back to God.
- Stood under the judgment and hope (not criticizing from far off)

Jesus

- Came not to be served, but to serve
- The Lord who gave himself for us "while we were yet sinners."
(We need to care for the knuckleheads as well as the saints)
- Works with the 5000, 70, 12 and 1: Large groups, small groups, and one-on-one

The Apostles

- Guided by the Holy Spirit
- And they took responsibility *together* for the church (shared leadership)
- 1 Corinthians 12: Many Gifts, One Body
- Ephesians 4: Many Roles, One Purpose:
to build up the body of Christ to know & love the Lord
- Charismatic AND Ordered
- Lay AND Ordained
- Grace and Law
- Justice and Mercy