

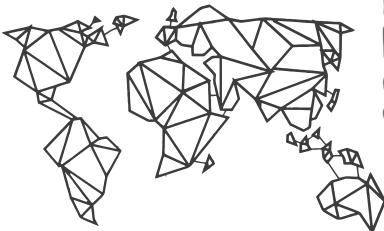
<sup>1</sup> Andrew Seidel, *Charting a Bold Course: Training Leaders for 21st Century Ministry* (Andrew Seidel, 2003), 122.

<sup>2</sup> Aubrey Malphurs, *Being Leaders: The Nature of Authentic Christian Leadership* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2003), 18.

Notes:

## GREAT COMMISSION LEADERSHIP

### HOMEWORK PACKET TEN



## CHARACTER, INTEGRITY, AND LEADERSHIP

*Character is stressed Biblically as the most important qualification for leadership.<sup>1</sup>*

**Andrew Seidel**

*The greatest crisis in the world today is a crisis of leadership, and the greatest crisis of leadership is a crisis of character.<sup>2</sup>*

**Howard Hendricks**

## BEFORE GOING ANY FURTHER, IS CHRIST ON THE THRONE?

If not, make sure He is!

## MEMORY VERSE

*Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.*

**2 Corinthians 4:2 [NIV]**

## LEAD AS AN AUTHENTIC FOLLOWER OF JESUS

Jesus taught that if we love Him we must obey Him (Jn. 14:15). David loved God and, even though he had several critical blunders, he desired to obey God. He was faithful with the little things God had trusted Him with, trusting God with the rest. David had been anointed to become king of Israel (1 Sam. 16:13) but was placed in the king's city, palace & service (which eventually led to him becoming king) because of a seemingly irrelevant talent, playing the harp (1 Sam. 16:21). God used David's harp playing to "open doors" for him. He had been faithful with the little things of music and shepherding before God made him faithful with the bigger thing of leading His people. You don't need to "open your own doors" but rather be faithful with what God has given you allowing Him to open doors for you. A leader must prove faithful before being placed in a position of leadership. .

## LEADERS MUST FIRST PASS THE TEST

Leaders who aren't ready to lead will hurt themselves and others.

<sup>3</sup> Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1994), 905.

Notes:

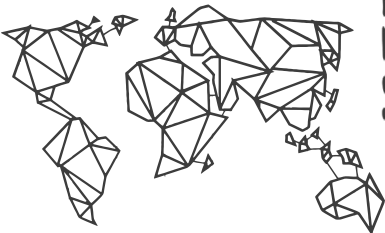
Today we'll discuss the characteristics that Biblical leaders must be growing in. Godly leaders will strive to exhibit these character traits, in the power of His Holy Spirit.

→ **What do 1 Tim. 3:6, 1 Tim. 3:10, & 1 Cor. 4:2 mean as far as leadership is concerned?**

## BIBLICAL CHARACTER & INTEGRITY

Below are character and integrity issues that scripture says are foundational for leadership. Many of these criteria apply specifically to elders and deacons but it is safe to expect them of anyone in Christian leadership.<sup>3</sup> Check each box you want to grow in and begin praying for God to develop these areas in your life, enabling you to be the leader He called you to be.

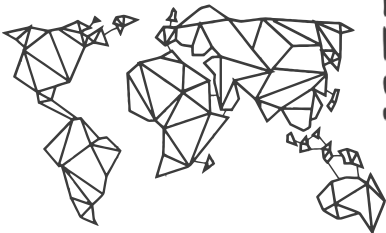
- I have correct motives (1 Peter 5:1-4, 1 Thes. 2:2-12).
- I am sincere (1 Tim. 3:1-13).
- I humbly work for the Lord and His approval only (Col. 3:23, 1 Thes. 2:2-12).
- I love what is good & have godly desires (Titus 1:8).
- I lead by example, watching my conduct closely (1 Tim. 4:12-16, 1 Peter 5:1-4).
- I am faithful with whatever is entrusted to me (1 Cor. 4:2).
- I encourage those around me (1 Thes. 2:2-12, Titus 1:9).
- I comfort those who need it (1 Thes. 2:2-12).
- I challenge those I lead to live lives worthy of God (1 Thes. 2:2-12).
- I serve and put others first (Mt. 20:25-28, 1 Peter 5:1-4)
- I live above reproach (1 Tim.3:1-13).
- I walk in integrity, purity, holiness, righteousness. and blamelessness (1 Thes. 2:2-12, 1 Tim. 4:12-16, Titus 1:6).
- I am temperate and balanced (1 Tim. 3:1-13).
- I am self controlled (1 Tim. 3:1-13, Titus 1:8).
- I am respectable and respected (1 Tim. 3:1-13).
- I am hospitable (1 Tim. 3:1-13, Titus 1:8).



Notes:

- I am able to teach and train (1 Tim. 3:1-13, 4:12-16, 2 Tim. 3:16-17, Titus 1:9).
- I am able to rebuke, correct and refute those who oppose truth (2 Tim. 3:16-17, Titus 1:9).
- I manage my private life and family well (1 Tim. 3:1-13, Titus 1:6).
- I am doctrinally sound—I correctly handle God’s Word & hold firmly to it (1 Tim. 3:1-13, 4:12-16, 2 Tim. 2:15, Titus 1:9).
- I have a clear conscience (1 Tim. 3:1-13).
- I guard my tongue (1 Tim. 4:12-16).
- I am gentle (1 Tim. 3:1-13, 1 Thes. 2:2-12).
- I love unconditionally (1 Tim. 4:12-16, 1 Thes. 2:2-12).
- I invest everything I have in those I lead (1 Thes. 2:2-12).
- I walk by faith (1 Tim. 4:12-16).
- I preach the Good News & share my faith (1 Tim. 4:12-16, 2 Tim. 4:5).
- I disciple younger believers (2 Tim. 2:2, Col.1:28-29).
- I am diligent & wholly devoted to God’s calling on my life (1 Tim. 4:12-16, 2 Tim. 2:3-6).
- I am disciplined (Titus 1:8)
- I persevere (1 Tim. 4:12-16).
- I endure hardship (2 Tim. 2:3).
- I obey the Lord (2 Tim. 2:4).
- I don’t abuse alcohol (1 Tim. 3:1-13, Titus 1:7).
- I am not violent (1 Tim. 3:1-13, Titus 1:7).
- I’m not greedy or materialistic (1 Tim. 3:1-13, 1 Pet. 5:1-4, 1 Thes. 2:2-12, Titus 1:7).
- I am not sexually immoral (1 Tim. 3:1-13).
- I am not ashamed (2 Tim. 2:15).
- I am not manipulative or overbearing (Mt. 20:25-28, Titus 1:7, 1 Peter 5:1-4).
- I am not a burden to those I lead (1 Thes. 2:2-12).
- I do not have a quick fuse or temper (Titus 1:7).
- I work knowing I’ll give an account to God for how I lead (Heb.13:17).

→ **Would you follow you? Why or why not?**



<sup>4</sup> CovenantEyes, "Porn Stats," <http://www.covenanteyes.com/pornstats/> (accessed December 19, 2013).

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Mind Armor, "Staggering Statistics," <http://www.mindarmor.com/staggering-statistics> (accessed December 19, 2013).

Notes:

## DEALING WITH SIN

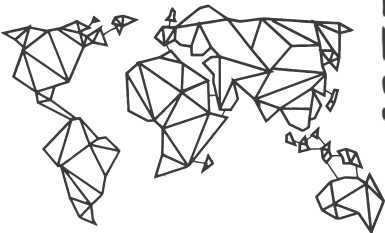
Scripture is clear that we are all sinners (Rom. 3:23, 1 Jn. 1:8). Jesus died on the cross for our sins (1 Jn. 2:2). All who believe in Him have been forgiven (Jn. 3:16). Having believed in Him, you have now become His child; that is not based on your perfection, but on your decision to believe in Him (Jn. 1:12). Now, you are a forgiven child of God, sealed with His very Spirit, and He guarantees your salvation (Eph. 1:13). Your Father-child relationship with God is based on His grace and the fact that you placed your faith in Him; that is not something that fluctuates based on your works (Eph. 2:8-9). However, sin does effect your fellowship and closeness with God (Ps. 66:18, 1 Peter 3:7). That fellowship is the context of 1 Jn. 1:5-10. When you confess sin to Him, he restores your fellowship (1 Jn. 1:9). Sin can also have terrible consequences here on this earth and it can keep us from the rewards God wants for us in heaven. Strive to walk blamelessly, in the power of the Spirit. When you do sin, remember you are still His child, but confess that quickly to Him so that your fellowship won't be hindered.

- **Take a moment right now. Ask God to reveal any sin He wants you to confess to Him. Then take a few moments to prayerfully ask His forgiveness. Remind yourself that you are forgiven and loved (Ps. 103:12).**

## INTEGRITY

Integrity is not negotiable! That is especially true for those in ministry. Leaders must live lives of integrity, avoiding both sins of commission and sins of omission. Unfortunately, leaders are failing in this area. For example, studies have shown that 50% of Christian men and 20% of Christian women are addicted to porn.<sup>4</sup> Additionally, 51% of pastors are tempted by porn,<sup>5</sup> and 55% of pastors have viewed it.<sup>6</sup> Leaders without integrity have no ability to lead others with the same struggles, they're just blind guides leading the blind (Mt. 15:14). Porn is just one area of integrity, but it is an alarming one. Christian leaders cannot live secret lives of sin; they must walk in the light (1 Jn. 1:5-10). Leading with integrity requires leading with accountability (James 5:16).

- **Have you seen (or heard of) a Christian leader who fell into sin? What was the result in his/her life, family, and ministry?**



<sup>7</sup>CovenantEyes, "Porn Stats,"  
[http://www.covenanteyes.com/  
pornstats/](http://www.covenanteyes.com/pornstats/) (accessed December  
19, 2013).

Notes:

- **What safeguards do you need to establish now to make sure the same won't happen in your life?**

## ACCOUNTABILITY

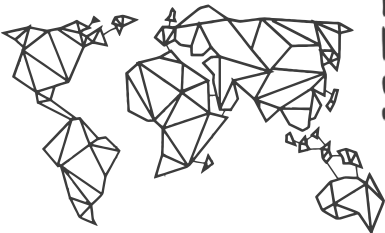
Having an accountability partner can be a great help in our personal growth and pursuit of integrity. Do you have an accountability partner? Unfortunately 75% of pastors have no accountability.<sup>7</sup> If you don't have an accountability partner, prayerfully consider a faithful Christian friend of the same sex who could partner with you in an accountability relationship. Make sure this is a trustworthy person who will partner with you in your journey towards biblical integrity. Contact them and set up a time to meet. Work out the details for continuing an accountability relationship. Make sure to keep each other accountable in areas of sin, but also in areas of ministry as well. Always encourage each other towards Christ-likeness and ministry faithfulness.

- **List your accountability partner:**

## CONFIDENTIALITY AND TRUST

Good accountability partners will strive to honor each other's trust by keeping each other's struggles confidential. Do not betray each other's trust. If your accountability shares an area they are struggling with, keep that confidential and support them in their fight for integrity. Only share your struggles with people you know will do the same for you. The only times you should publicize these things is when there is an unwillingness to repent, or when others are harmed by this person's sin, or when laws are broken. In those instances, avoid gossip but take the issue to a godly leader who will be able to help (Matt. 18:15-20). Always strive to show each other grace and to help each other grow in integrity.

- **Will you commit to maintaining confidentiality and trust with your accountability partner?**



Notes:

## FAITHFUL IN LITTLE

That is the truth expressed in Lk. 16:10. Leaders must be faithful with little for the sake of the little, not just doing what they need to do to get to the next level. Be focused on faithfulness. Russ Akins says, "Everything in your personal life must revolve around Jesus and everything in your ministry life must revolve around Jesus and the Great Commission."

→ **What has God called you to be faithful with in your personal life?**

→ **What has God called you to be faithful with in your ministry life?**

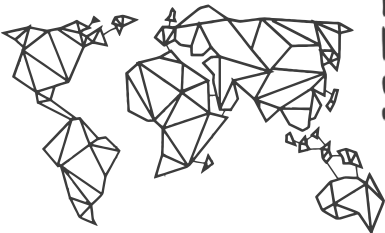
Credibility is essential. People will not follow you unless they see you as credible. Character and integrity are the lifeblood of credibility. If you fail to cultivate a strong godly character and life of integrity, you'll have no credibility and no capacity for leadership. Leaders must demonstrate a credible, transparent, victorious Christian life.

→ **What character and integrity issues are currently detracting from your credibility? What steps will you take (in Christ's strength) to make changes in these areas?**

## JESUS & HIS GREAT COMMISSION

A leader must develop a commitment to Jesus, a godly character, and a life of integrity before leading others. Trust Him to build these characteristics into your life over time (2 Cor. 3:18).

→ **How can you apply Php. 1:27, Eph. 4:1, Col. 1:10, and 1 Thes. 2:12?**



Notes:

- Longevity and effective ministry require godliness in every thought, choice, and action. How can you be more committed, disciplined, diligent, and responsible in the area of character development?

You can't give what you don't have (Lk. 6:40). Grow a Christ-like character over time so you'll be able to lead others by example! Check out Paul's example of leading by example in 1 Cor. 11:1, 1 Cor. 4:16, Gal. 4:12, Php. 3:17, Php. 4:9, 1 Thes. 1:6, and 2 Thes. 3:7.

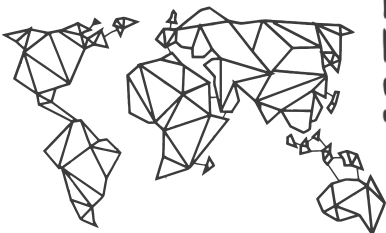
- **What are some ways you can better follow Christ's example (especially in light of others following your example)?**

Jesus tells you, in Mt. 28:18-20:

*All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*

- **Describe what Jesus means here and how that applies to your ministry; what does it mean to "go and make disciples?"**

- **A fruitful Great Commission ministry will naturally flow from a personal life that revolves around Jesus (Jn. 15:1-8, 16). Describe how you have seen fruitful ministry naturally flow from a personal life revolving around Jesus.**

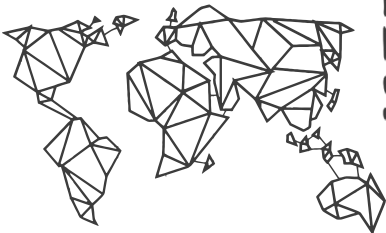




Notes:

These foundational leadership character and integrity issues may seem impossible but remember, 2 Cor. 3:4-6, 18. He will work these into your life, making you competent for ministry. Even when you fail, confess your sin quickly to Him, knowing that He will forgive you (1 Jn. 1:9). Never forget that He is committed to forgiving you and growing you into the person and leader He wants you to be (Phil. 1:6 and Heb. 12:1-2). It is our hope that He will use these notes to help you towards that goal! Remember, 1 Tim.3:13, "Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus" (NIV). Remember, He will complete the good work He began in you (Phil.1:6) and you're just where you need to be in His competent hands (Jn.10:28).

*Remember, your weaknesses, inabilities, failures and past present no challenge to God's will for your life. Your willingness does. Be willing to be and do what God made you for. You don't have what it takes but God's Spirit in you does so be the leader He made you to be and turn this world upside down for Him!*





Notes:

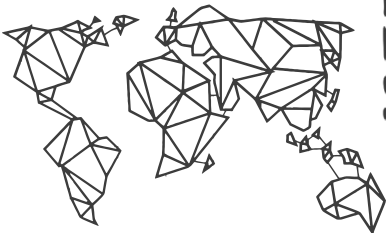
## ACT NOW

### GROW IN INTEGRITY

Discuss the answers to these questions with your accountability partner (you don't need share these publicly) and come up with an accountability plan. Please be honest!!!

- **What struggles have you had with incorrect motives?**
- **What struggles have you had with porn or lust?**
- **What struggles have you had with competition and pride?**
- **What struggles have you had with insecurities?**
- **What struggles have you had with speech and gossip?**
- **What struggles have you had with relationship issues with other members of your sex and with members of the opposite sex? (Couples: What struggles do you have in your relationship?)**
- **What struggles have you had with drinking, drugs, or the party scene?**
- **What struggles have you had in your walk with God, time in the Word, and prayer?**
- **What struggles have you had with evangelism?**
- **What struggles have you had with being a good steward of all God has given you?**
- **What struggles have you had with giving?**
- **What struggles have you had in other issues not listed here?**

Victory over the sin cycle. James 1:14-15 defines this cycle saying desire leads to temptation which leads to sin which leads to death. When you sin the Holy Spirit will convict you of that sin (Jn. 16:8). Then you can run from Him hiding in darkness, rationalizing your sin, believing a lie and experiencing bondage and isolation from God and others. Or, you can run to God, walking in the light confessing the sin and believing the truth, experiencing freedom and fellowship with God and others. Decide today to grow closer to Jesus allowing Him to change your desires immunizing you from temptation and also decide to run to Him when you fall allowing Him to cleanse you. Be accountable and trust Him to continue developing you (2 Cor. 3:18).



<sup>8</sup> G. T. Doran, *There's a S.M.A.R.T. Way to Write Management's Goals and Objectives* (Management Review, Volume 70, Issue 11, 1981), 35-36.

Notes:

## PERSONAL GROWTH

→ Write out this lesson's memory verse (also, write it out several more times this week):

→ List a SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant & within a Time-frame) goal<sup>16</sup> for this lesson and action plans for achieving it.

SMART Goal:

Action plan:

Action plan:

Action plan:

→ How are you staying close to Jesus, walking by faith and in integrity, trusting Him and the power of His Spirit in life and ministry rather than yourself, and how can you more?

→ Jesus insisted that serving Him and serving others was the highest attribute of leadership (Mt. 20:25-28). How are you growing as a servant leader?

→ How will this lesson help you better accomplish the Great Commission and multiply Christ-like multipliers?

→ List any last thoughts and then put everything you learned in this lesson in God's hands, trusting Him to build these things into your life.

