

BIBLICAL LEADERSHIP



*Developing Spirit-Empowered,
Servant-Hearted Leaders*

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6 - BIBLICAL LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW

Christian Life Center's Institute Course on Biblical Leadership focuses on shaping leaders who serve with spiritual depth, Biblical character, and Kingdom values. At its foundation, the course teaches that leadership begins *not* with position or influence, but with our surrender to Christ that is lived out in obedience to the Holy Spirit and to Scripture. Leaders are shaped through developing deep and authentic intimacy with God, personal integrity, and a heart to serve others in every context: home, church, workplace, and beyond.

A powerful example of a leader humbly recognizing his own limitations and turning to the One who can transform him is found in the cry of Moses. Read the following passage and reflect on the heart behind his words. They were spoken during a devastating time in Israel's history... the creation and worship of the golden calf (Exodus 32) and the early stages of Israel's journey out of Egypt.

Part 1 | EXODUS 33:7-23 *So the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. He would return to the camp, but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the Tabernacle.*

Then Moses said to the LORD, "See, You say to me, 'Bring up this people.' But You have not let me know whom You will send with me. Yet You have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found grace in My sight.' Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight. And consider that this nation is Your people." And He said, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."...

1. The command to lead | Exodus 33:12 *Moses said to the Lord, "You have been telling me, 'Lead these people,!'..."*

- Fear and timidity in leading. (Joshua 1:6-9; 2 Timothy 1:6-8)
- The Servant Leader as a shepherd (1 Peter 5:2-4), not a "hireling." (John 10:12-13)

2. Relationships of mentoring and partnership | Exodus 33:12 *"...but you have not let me know whom you will send with me." (2 Timothy 2:2)*

- Mentoring is a relationship where someone with experience guides another person by sharing wisdom and insight in ways that help them grow and become stronger. (Adapted from Robert Clinton, *Connecting: The Mentoring Relationships You Need to Succeed in Life*)
- Are you an "armor bearer?" Who has God placed in your life that you are called to stand beside, support, and strengthen in the work of the Lord? (1 Samuel 14:6-7; 1 Samuel 18:1)

3. **Desiring to know God and His ways** | Exodus 33:12-13 *You have said, "I know you by name and you have found favor with me." If You are pleased with me, teach me Your ways so I may know You and continue to find favor with You.* (Philippians 3:10-14)
 - Knowing His acts vs. knowing His ways. (Psalm 103:7-14)
 - Paul's cry to know Him. (Philippians 3:10-11)
4. **The stewardship of God's people** | Exodus 33:13 *Remember that this nation is your people.* (1 Peter 5:1-4)
 - Even though people may follow us, we must never see them as "our" people. Our task is always to develop people in their relationship with Christ.
 - What is your Servant Leadership style? How do you lead people God has placed in your care? Where can you improve?
5. **The determination to be led by His Spirit and His Presence** | Exodus 33:15 *Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here."* (Galatians 5:16-17)
 - Romans 8:14 *For all who allow themselves to be led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.*
 - **Are you genuinely surrendered to God's leadership in your life?** In the following section, we will consider several other challenging questions that may reveal areas we need to bring honestly before Jesus.



Part 2 | MAKING SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP REAL

Are we still children chasing entertainment, or are we pursuing God's purpose for our lives, one that prepares us for eternity? — Anonymous

The following questions are carefully created not to bring discouragement and condemnation. Rather they are catalytic in providing a vision for what is and can be in a life surrendered to His Eternal purposes for His Church, to live a life of servant leadership.

1. **KNOWING AND EXPERIENCING GOD** | *The foundation of Kingdom leadership.* (John 17:3)
 - A. If the Holy Spirit withdrew His presence from CLC, would anything change, or would the "ministry machine" continue running the same?
 - B. When was the last time God corrected you, humbled you, or redirected you in prayer. How did you respond? Did you obey immediately or did you, like many of us, negotiate?
 - C. Do you lead from a fresh revelation in your own walk with God, or from past victories, and accumulated experience? Instead of seeking God first, have you begun relying on answers from sources like ChatGPT?
2. **SERVANT LEADERSHIP** | *Biblical leadership begins with servanthood.* (Matthew 20:26-28)
 - A. Are you willing to "wash the feet" (serving in a meaningful way) of those who may never recognize your sacrifice, or do you secretly hope your humility will eventually be noticed?

- B. When someone you trained surpasses you or receives greater recognition, does your heart celebrate or do you quietly compete out of jealousy?
- C. When obedience to God keeps you in hidden places with no applause or no recognition, will you still serve faithfully, or does your motivation fade when we are not noticed?

3. THE LEADER'S INTEGRITY | *Developing the moral compass of the leader.* (Matthew 6:6)

- A. Is there any area of your private life that you would fear being fully exposed to the people you lead? (1 Timothy 1:15)
- B. Proverbs 11:3 *The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity.* Are my convictions the same when no one else is present? Does the “freedom” of the world still entice me?
- C. If others followed your private disciplines ...your prayer life, your thought life, your use of time... would they be challenged to grow closer to Christ?

4. EMPOWERING LEADERSHIP | *Becoming a leader who empowers and releases others into Kingdom work.* (Ephesians 4:11-13)

- A. Are you genuinely raising people who could lead without you, or are you creating dependence on your leadership?
- B. Do you release authority to others even when they might do things differently than you would?
- C. When someone under your leadership fails, is your first response embarrassment, correction, or control? Or do you approach them with a desire to restore and help them learn?

5. DYNAMIC TEAMS | *The power of God's people in unity.* (1 Samuel 14:1-23)

- A. Are you building a Spirit-led team, or assembling competent people who help accomplish your vision?
- B. When conflict arises on your team, do you invite the Holy Spirit into the tension, or do you manage it primarily with human leadership skills?
- C. Is the atmosphere of your team marked more by unity, humility, and prayer, or by efficiency and productivity?

Part 3 | QUESTION

What have you learned or discovered in this Institute class? How will this become a part of your life... At home? At church? At work?



Matthew 20:26–28 Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.