

From Faith to Faith

Granbury Street Church of Christ

The Basics of Leadership

Kevin W. Rhodes

When we think of Solomon, we typically think of wisdom...or perhaps many, many wives. But I do not believe that we often think about his leadership, and that is quite ironic. Solomon led Israel at its height, politically, economically, and militarily. He led Israel during their most peaceful period of history—ever. Therefore, while Solomon certainly had his flaws, straying from God due to the influence of his wives during the latter half of his reign only to come to his senses toward the end (reading Ecclesiastes as his work), he clearly had many strengths as a leader, and he exhibited these early on in his reign. In the account surrounding his request for wisdom provided in 2 Chronicles, the writer acknowledges a variety of these characteristics. He notes that Solomon began well because he was with God and God was with him (2 Chr. 1:1). He shows how he communicated to the people of the nation, beginning with the various leaders serving under him (2 Chr. 1:1). He records how Solomon journeyed to Gibeon, where the tabernacle and altar were, in order to offer a thousand burnt offerings (2 Chr. 1:3-6), an example of devotion and sacrifice that no one could ignore. He then tells of Solomon's request for wisdom, a request that demonstrates a level of humility and focus on others that is sorely missing today in society today (2 Chr. 1:7-12). Finally, he summarizes how God then blessed him and all of Israel based on his behavior (2 Chr. 1:13-17). While all these traits prove worthy in any individual, they are invaluable in a leader.

Spiritual leaders today often begin with a solid record of service and a good heart as a Christian but fail to grasp how to extend this beyond a personal level to help those around them. Leadership requires faithfulness beyond the normal Christian. A spiritual leader must cling to God's guidance not only for himself but for all he hopes to do for others (Jas. 4:8). Spiritual leadership demands communicating with the people, emphasizing Jesus and His message as the authority for all and explaining decisions, whether privately or publicly, from a spiritual and therefore biblical point of view (1 Tim. 3:2; Jas. 3:17). Spiritual leadership guides with the gentle presence of example as well as through the persuasion of instruction (1 Pet. 5:1-4). Spiritual leadership knows the difficulties and responsibilities of the role and humbly leans on God as one unworthy of the task instead of haughtily taking it as if he has earned the right. Spiritual leadership founded on these qualities will then secure blessings beyond measure for those whom they lead (Eph. 1:3). The benefits will not appear in so obvious a way as Israel observed in Solomon's day—not, that is, until those who follow meet the Lord in heaven. But such leadership deserves honor and respect even upon the earth, for it reflects not only Solomon's model early in His reign but also the Lord's.

Shepherds

Sid Carruth
Kenneth Helm
Clark Lehtinen

Deacons

Gary Barger
Jeff Day
Vince Grinnell
Justin Hewlett
Bill Hughes
Tim Norman

Preacher

Kevin Rhodes

Sunday

Bible Study
9:00 am

AM Worship
10:00 am

PM Worship
5:00 pm

Wednesday

Ladies Class
10:00 am

Bible Study
7:00 pm

Cleburne,
Texas

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Accept Christ's Leadership - Part One

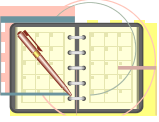
Kevin W. Rhodes

Sometimes, when we read Jesus' words—or even say them out loud—we miss their full impact. The disciples who heard them originally certainly did, though this should serve as only minimal consolation. But think about how every word Jesus uttered has power all its own. When Jesus said, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me" (Mt. 16:24), each phrase carried great meaning. Yet, in a verse so rich, we can sometimes miss the beauty and dynamic of those last three words: "and follow me." He had said this before, but in its context here, it comes with even greater gravity. On the night of His betrayal, Jesus would expand upon this very thought when He said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (Jn. 14:6). Accepting Christ's leadership and guidance in all matters of life, submitting to His will and His wisdom, remains the final step in denying yourself. We can express a desire to belong to Jesus, we can make various sacrifices along the way, we can endure poverty and even persecution, but if we do not follow Jesus' guidance, we have not truly denied ourselves and we are not really living as His disciples.

The fact is, if you are going your own way, you are going the wrong way. The wise man penned long ago, "There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death" (Prov. 14:12). Yet many fool themselves into thinking that because they are pleased with themselves that this means Jesus is pleased with them. We cannot be content with "kind of" following Jesus or

following Jesus "for the most part." What do we think we are doing for that "other part"? Jesus calls us to follow Him through life in all of life into eternal life. If we take a detour along the way, we are not following Jesus. "O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps" (Jer. 10:23).

At some point we must come to the realization—in more than just theory—that Jesus is the only One with the experience to lead us. "For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin" (Heb. 4:15). We can fall into the trap of thinking that no one understands our situation or that times have changed, so much so that we essentially deny our need to look to Jesus. But Jesus' acceptance of the description "Son of Man" places Him fully before us not just as a human being but also as God's Ideal. And so it was even in prophecy, as Daniel wrote, "I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one Which shall not be destroyed" (Dan. 7:13-14). To enter the kingdom, to submit to His dominion, to serve Him as our Lord, we must also embrace Him as the Ideal Man, who alone can lead us through the difficulties of life to discover the beauties of heaven.



News and Notes

Among our sick

- Roland Bishop is home from the hospital.
- Alicia McCurdy, Charlotte Moulder's daughter, had surgery on Tuesday.
- Brenda Wise has been in building C 2nd floor CVICU #5 at Baylor All Saints in Fort Worth. The family had a consultation with the doctors on Tuesday, December 2nd, to see what needed to be done.

New Member

Laura Stephens
Chisolm Trail Estates
513 S. Old Betsy Rd. #212
Keene, 76059
Home 817-517-6122
Cell 817-229-9929

Please Note...

- Barbara Burnett will hold a Santa Snack and Go for the congregation's children 6th grade and under at her house on Saturday, December 6th, from 4:00-8:00 PM. Please bring a snack plate to share.
- Winter Quarter for classes begins on Sunday, December 7th.
- The youth devotional will be at Barbara Burnett's home on Sunday, December 7th, after the evening worship service. See Darla Grinnell and Ginger Owens for details.
- Family Day holiday party will be at 6:30 Friday, December 12th, at the Cowan's.
- Our annual Christmas dinner will be in the annex on Sunday, December 14th, after the evening worship service. The meat, dressing, rolls and tea will be provided. Please bring vegetables or desserts.
- We will be delivering fruit baskets to the shut-ins on Sunday, December 21st. If you would like to donate to the cost of the baskets please give your money to Gary or Glenda Barger.
- To the new ladies of the congregation that have placed membership: If you would like to contribute recipes to the upcoming Granbury Street cookbook, please give them to Jeri Allen within the next two weeks.
- Sunday, December 7th, will be the last day to have your pictures taken for the directory.

Those who Serve

Lords' Supper: 12/7

Front South

Colton Allen
Clint Owens
Larry McWilliams

Front North

Doug Jones
Clark Lehtinen
Dennis Lane

Back South

John McGilvray
Jeff McPherson
Jay Lehtinen

Back North

Jackie Mayden
Doug Kilcrease
Casey Lehtinen

Leading prayers:

Sunday AM

Mike Hight
Ken Boroughs

Sunday PM

Doug Jones
Bill Hughes

Wednesday PM

Luke Norman

Announcements:

Sunday AM-PM:

Jeff Day

Wednesday

Cody Grinnell

Song leaders:

Sunday AM

Russ Jones

Sunday PM

Russ Jones

Wednesday PM

Rob Stidolph

Foyer Personnel:

Sunday & Wednesday

J. D. Allen

Collection Counting

Don Crecelius / Johnny Walker

Wed. PM Devotional (12/10)

Casey Lehtinen



Sermons for Sunday

AM

The Platform of Unity
Ephesians 4:4-6

PM

Exhortation to Elders
1 Peter 5:1-4



Listen to the Gospel!

Granbury Street's Worship

LIVE every Sunday Morning at 10:00 am on
KnowTheTruthRadio.org

Luis and Mike in the Mornings

(Monday - Friday) from 7:00 am - 9:00 am cst on
KnowTheTruthRadio.org

Biblical Foundations with Pat McIntosh

(Tuesday - Thursday) 7:00 am or 11:00 am
btradio.net



Our Records

Bible Class	132
AM Worship.....	213
PM Worship	132
Wednesday Bible Class 11/26.....	106
Contribution	\$5247

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