



HCC Leadership Development Class- Week 5

November 19, 2020

I. Intro

Leadership is a paradox—a glory and a ruin, a privilege and a torment. People look *for* leaders, who are in short supply, and look *to* leaders, whose skills are often exaggerated. People assist and advise them, favor and flatter them, haunt them and hover over them. But others suspect, criticize, and condemn. They drown their leaders and delight in their demise. It's so much easier to review a book (or movie) than it is to write (or direct) one. And it's so much easier to rail at a leader than to be one. Every step up is simultaneously a step down. Every leader knows the paradoxes of headship, sees them, hears them, smells them coming, in the way that fits his realm. A judge has great power. He ferrets out the truth, protects the defenseless, and punishes evildoers. He fines petty miscreants, jails the wicked, and acquits the innocent. But every sound judgment disappoints someone a little, and a few earn a leader full-blooded enemies. Headless chickens on the porch and slashed tires are one thing, death threats on wives and children another. Presidents and prime ministers are the most-loved and the most-detested persons in their lands, the objects of fevered adulation and plotted assassination. In the circle of fawning admirers, every wish is a command; but in the circle of foes, every gesture is reviled. The boss, the coach, the director, the governor—all loved, all scorned. Every privilege gained is a freedom lost.

Few bear the mantle of authority with ease. One type is too quick to decide, too eager to lead, even to dominate, and readily abuses power. Another sort is too reluctant to command, too thin-skinned to endure. Rare indeed is Plato's reluctant-but-willing philosopher king.

Like the sad fish that daily ingest but never expel mercury until the concentrate cripples them, the leader never even hears of the easy problems. Only the toxic stuff reaches his desk, only the problems that no one else conquers.

What sane person would want to be a leader? The deluded and power-hungry want it, the naive and grasping hunger for it. More importantly, those whom God has called and gifted to lead desire it. They want to change the world, to bring truth, peace, and grace to bear in churches and cities so that people find healing and life. They want to improve some part of creation and believe they know how to do it.

Through Scripture, godly leaders have witnessed Jesus' sufferings. Depending on their age and course of life, they see, whether dimly or fully, what it means to suffer with him. They also hope to share in his glory, and depending on their age and experience, they have either robust or guarded optimism about their chances.

-Dan Doriani, D. M. (2014). *1 Peter*.

● Leadership Roles at HCC

○ Church Government- "What are Elders and Deacons?" by Ricky Jones

■ What does the word Presbyterian mean?

■ 3 main types of church organization today:

- Congregational: ruled by majority vote.
- Episcopal: led by one person with the help of a board.
- Presbyterian: led by an elected group of leaders.

■ The New Testament provides for two types of church officers: elders (overseers) and deacons.

"To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons." -Phil. 1:1

Elder is Shepherd and servant. Deacon is servant and shepherd.

● Elder

- Elder (presbuteros)- means overseer, pastor, shepherd
- Read 1 Peter 5:1-4, Acts 20:17, 28-32
- What do you notice about the role of elder?

- Other passages:
Titus 1- elder and overseer used interchangeably
John 10- elder is a servant leader, and knows the sheep and they know him. A shepherd protects, cares for, knows and is known by, and nourishes the sheep (Acts 20, 1 Peter 5)
1 Peter 5- elder has authority but is commanded “not to lord it over those in their charge”
1 Timothy 3- elder is able to teach
Acts 6- elder is a man of prayer
- Summary? Oversee, protect, shepherd, know, be known, pray for, feed, guard, nourish, teach the sheep
- Where do we tend to miss? Board of directors, decision makers, servant small s...
- **Deacon**
 - Deacon (diakonos)- means servant (an office of sympathy and service BCO)
 - Read Acts 6:1-7
 - What do you notice about the role of deacon?
 - Other passages:
Mark 10:43-44- Jesus describes himself using the word servant
1 Timothy 3- suggests a link between qualifications for two offices, elder and deacon, with the word “likewise” to suggest similar qualifications. Minus “able to teach”?
 - Summary? servant, mercy, encourage generosity, aid in unity, administrative, care of physical property
 - Where do we tend to miss? JV elder, care for the poor, not able to teach...
 - According to 1 Timothy 3/ Titus 1 the qualifications for elder and deacon are: above reproach, husband of one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money, manage his own family well, not a recent convert, have a good reputation with outsiders

- **What about women?**

At HCC we wholeheartedly declare that the Bible teaches women and men are created equal in the image of God and equally worthy of dignity and respect. We also believe in the traditional view of complementarianism, that says while women and men are absolutely equal, the genders complement one another to beautifully image God and that God gives different roles in the church and family to women and men.

- **Deaconess?**

While the Bible does mention women who were deaconesses and worked alongside the deacons, it is less clear if this was an ordained role. Our denominational standards say that the Bible teaches us that the ordained role of elder and deacon is for men only.

How can we create a culture at HCC where women feel encouraged, affirmed, and empowered to lead, teach, and serve alongside/ shoulder to shoulder with men as equal in worth and ability that is grounded in the Bible and follows our denominational standards?

-History: when women walk in the door of a conservative, PCA church immediately they assume it's a place where women are inferior and “not allowed” to do certain things. They think about words like submit and be silent in the Bible before words like dignity and worth.

-Practically: as the pastor I'm up front a lot so it's a male voice people hear most

In addition to putting more women up front in leading roles, and encouraging women to lead and teach in the church...we will hopefully create a role for women in the church who feel led to lead, teach, and serve.

For further reading...

- Jesus, Justice, Gender Roles, Kathy Keller, 2012
- The Role of Women in Ministry at Redeemer Presbyterian Church, San Antonio, 2009
- Upholding the Necessity of Women in Ministry, Leon Brown, 2017
- Complementarianism for Dummies, Mary Kassian, 2012
- Oak Mountain Presbyterian Church's Position Paper on the Roles of Women in the Church, 2009

Discuss *Discerning and Exercising Spiritual Gifts*, by Tim Keller

What is next? Theology/doctrine/ church. 5 week session: 1/7, 1/14, 1/21, 1/28, 2/4

Reading: Confessing the Faith, A Reader's Guide to the Westminster Confession of Faith