

## The Kinds of Leaders America Needs

November 1 & 2, 2008

*Without wise leadership, a nation falls.... Proverbs chapter 11 verse 14 (488)*

### Wise Leaders have Integrity

- ***The Lord detests people with crooked hearts, but He delights in those with integrity.***  
*Proverbs chapter 11 verse 20 (488)*
- ***The godly walk with integrity; blessed are their children who follow them.***  
*Proverbs chapter 20 verse 7 (495)*

Too many leaders care more about their image than they care about their character!

- Image - what people think you are, the “you” people see
- Character - what you really are, the “you” God sees

***King David cared for them with a true heart and led them with skillful hands.***

*Psalms 78 verse 72 (450)*

- The best leaders have integrity (a true heart) and competence (skillful hands)
- integrity = an un-segmented life
- integrity = when your private & public life are the same
- integrity ≠ perfection, integrity = honesty

***People with integrity walk safely, but those who follow crooked paths will slip and fall.***

*Proverbs chapter 10 verse 9 (487)*

### Growing in Integrity

- Confess your secrets to God
- Live life in true community, with real friends around you
- Do life in accountability
- Listen to the “truth in love” from those that really love you
- Stop defending yourself
- Stop living a segmented life
- Stop keeping secrets
- Stop allowing your image to be more important than your character

### Wise Leaders have Humility

***Jesus said, “Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant....”***

*Mark chapter 10 verse 43 (771)*

- Jesus taught that the most powerful leaders are those who serve the most people!
- The world teaches that the most powerful leaders are those who have the most people serving them!
- To the vast majority of leaders, service becomes “serve us”

(over)

*God opposes the proud but favors the humble. James chapter 4 verse 6 (932)*

*Pride leads to disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom. Proverbs chapter 11 verse 2 (488)*

\*\* People who lack humility also lack wisdom!

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Humility is a CHOICE

- ***Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up in honor.***  
*James chapter 4 verse 10 (932)*
- The Bible doesn't tell me to pray for humility
- The Bible doesn't say it's my job to humble someone else
- The Bible DOES say I need to humble myself because humility is a choice!

Humility is NOT denying my strengths or going around telling everyone how bad I am.

Humility is being honest about my weaknesses

- I cannot be humble if I refuse to be honest about myself!
- ***Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves....*** *Romans chapter 12 verse 3 (866)*

Humility is NOT thinking less of yourself. Humility is thinking about yourself less often!

- ***Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.***  
*Philippians chapter 2 verses 3 - 5 (900)*
- I build humility in my life by focusing on other people & their needs
- I stop thinking about me by forcing myself to focus on others

Growing in Humility

- Be honest about my weaknesses to others
- Do life in an authentic way
- Do life in accountability
- Look for stuff to sincerely complement others about, then do it
- Each day, do 10 "secret" acts of service for others (compliment them to others, clean up, make coffee, pray for, allow others to take the credit, etc)
- Each day, do 10 public acts of service for others (allow them to go first, hold door for, serve coffee, etc)
- Listen & talk less. Allow others to talk about themselves while you LISTEN
- Join a serving team at Bethel

*Ideas for this talk were taken from "The Kind of Leadership America Needs," a talk given by Rick Warren, lead pastor of Saddleback Church in California. Rick gave this talk the day after hosting the Saddleback Forum, a Q & A with both John McCain & Barack Obama.*

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