

Men's Training Camp

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Saturday, June 12, 2021

"Character Sketches—Followers and Leaders" (The Apostle Paul)

1. Paul's life and character (Acts 22:30; 23:1-5)
 - Pharisee of the tribe of Benjamin, brought up in that tradition, trained in the law.
 - Called by God and became a fervent follower of Christ.
 - Got in trouble with the Jews and was called to testify.
2. Paul's response to the High Priest
 - Understood priesthood was corrupt and politically motivated/aligned with the Romans.
 - Understood the High Priest and the Jews had rejected Christ.
 - But refused to denigrate the office of the High Priest and recognized a God ordained position.
 - Recognized the importance of respect for an office, even if the person was not respectable.
3. Paul's authority
 - Sometimes had to explain to those he was serving of his authority and office (1 Cor. 4:14)
 - Could not have expected others to follow him if he did not himself respect leaders over him.
 - Also even respected the office of Nero, the Roman emperor (Rom. 13:1).
 - His respect for authority strengthened his ability to teach and to have a level of authority to speak with authority when he taught others.
4. Peoples' common mistake when rising up as a leader
 - They destroy, ridicule, denigrate, or attack a leader they're trying to replace.
 - Followers will one day treat them that way, too.
5. For us today
 - Paul respected and taught respect for the office of even unrighteous men, such as the High Priest, Roman Governor, or Roman Emperor.
 - Showing you're a faithful follower increases your ability to be a leader.
6. Three areas to respect authority: church, family, society
 - 1) Society
 - Examples: President of the United States, Secretary of State, etc.
 - How do we speak of rulers in our country at home, before kids, or before other members?
 - How do we speak about our boss—with respect and not disdain?
 - 2) Church
 - Examples: HQ, pastor, etc.
 - How do we speak when we don't like administrative decisions?
 - How do we speak when we see personal faults of a pastor?
 - Mr. Meredith to Mr. Tkach, even during the apostasy: "I will not attack you personally, but I will defend doctrine."

3) Family

- We want our wives and children to respect our office, though they know we are fallible.
- We can't expect them to respect our office unless we respect the office of the President, the Governor, the minister, the evangelists, our boss, etc.

7. Paul's example

- Paul set an example even in a worldly political situation.
- He recognized the God-ordained office and refused to disrespect it.

8. Followership and us

- We're seeking to really understand followership.
- One Pillar of followership is respecting office, even if it's difficult to respect the person or if we just don't understand or agree with the decision.
- God created the office.
- We help to support the structure we're part of when we respect office.
- If we destroy respect for office, how can we possibly be effective?
- Remember Paul's words, "Gentleman, I did not know he was the high priest."