

Spiritual Leaders in the Church

(Our authority for such a study.

- 1) It is not what other churches are doing. That may be right, or it may be wrong. Besides, there is a great difference among churches.
- 2) It is not necessarily what we have been doing. We need always to be looking at what we are doing, and how we are doing it.
- 3) Nor are we to follow the pattern of other worldly organizations. We may do some things in a similar way, but it is not because the world (e.g., worldly business) is our pattern.
- 4) Nor can we depend on church history alone. The study of history can be helpful, positively and negatively, but that is not ultimately our authority.
- 5) IT IS THE BIBLE, and the Bible alone! The Bible is our only authority because:
 - a) IT IS THE WORD OF GOD - and the only such book we have.
Cf. 1 Tim. 3:14-17.
2 Pet. 1:16-21.
 - b) IT CLAIMS THAT AUTHORITY OVER US.

The spiritual leaders of the know this, OR were to teach, and enforce the teachings of Scripture. Cf. Isa. 8:20

Spiritual Leaders (2)

The Old Testament is repeatedly cited in the NT.

The teachings of Christ and of the Apostles and other NT writers are always regarded this way in the NT.

See this for the OT in Ex.

18:13-27. It is interesting to see how God's revelation of this was progressive, and that we have a similar plan in the OT as well as the NT.

See also Num. 11:10-30.

Thus, this means that all that the people believed the way they lived and what they did was to be brought into conformity with the Word of God.

Illus: This is the real issue with the Dobson files, and, first of all, in our attitude toward Dobson himself.

WE MUST KNOW THE BIBLE OR WE WILL ALWAYS BE CONFUSED.

Note how Peter deals with this subject in 2 Pet. 1:1-11 (and see how it continues down through the end of the chapter). This was not written just to the leaders, but to all who "have obtained like precious faith with us." The NASB: "to those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours."

Spiritual Leaders (3)

Note how knowledge fits in with what Peter wrote, and the promises which follow.

So the Bible is our authority and our only authority. And our authority as spiritual leaders goes back to Bar.

What does the Bible teach about leadership in the church? Two things:

- 1) It teaches that the spiritual leaders are men. Women may help, but the responsibility is with the men.
- 2) These men must meet certain qualifications. Cf. 1 Tim. 3:1-13
Titus 1:4-9.

who are spiritual leaders
men, have to be considered in
three ways:

- 1) Like all other Christians, or all the other people of God. It is impossible for us to think that any man would fall short the level of what is expected of Christians generally.
- 2) as heads of their families.
 - a) over their wives - established at creation.
 - b) over their children. Cf. Deut. 6:1-9. Note how the personal precedes the family responsibilities.
- 3) as spiritual leaders in the church. You can see in the

Spiritual Leaders (4)

qualifications given in 1 Tim 3 and Titus 1 how personal and family considerations qualify (or disqualify) men for spiritual leadership?

Now, since knowledge plays such an important role in a man's life in all three of these areas, we are going to concentrate on that first. What we know affects what we are, and what we do.

How do we gain a knowledge of the truth of God's Word?

- 1) It comes from God - particularly through the work of the Spirit.
Cf. John 14
1 Cor. 2

- Eph. 1:15-23
Ps. 119:18
Col. 4:1-7
2) It is given in answer to prayer. We must pray as men, as fathers, as spiritual leaders.
Cf. 1 Jn. 5:14-17
- 3) It is the result of a life-long, careful examination of the scriptures themselves. We should always be increasing our knowledge of the Word of God.

Therefore, we are going to be examining the basic truths of the gospel first. See again 2 Tim.

- 3:14-17. They are:

- 1) Man and sin.
- 2) God and salvation.

I want to do all of this from scripture

Spiritual Leaders (2)

not to promote any system, but
to examine the Scriptures to see
what the Gospel really is which
we are to proclaim - truths which
we must know:

- 1) as individual Christians
- 2) as the spiritual leaders of our
families.
- 3) as the spiritual leaders of the
people of Central Bible Church.

For the next time read:

- 1) Gen. 1-3.
- 2) Rom. 1-5.

Look for the following things:

- 1) what man was like originally
at creation
- 2) how he was changed into a
sinner
- 3) what this did to him
- 4) how it affected his relationship
with God

Find as many other Scriptures
as you can which deal with man
and sin.