

*One of the determining factors of discipleship is the principle of leadership.*

## **I. THE PRINCIPLE OF LEADERSHIP**

### **A. Built in to the Book of Nehemiah is the principle of leadership**

#### **1. In any successful group or mission - someone has to be in charge**

*a. Nehemiah 11:9 And Joel the son of Zichri was their overseer: and Judah the son of Senuah was second over the city.*

*1. Overseer: To visit/to see – to see over; Deputy/governor/officer*

*a. Someone who is responsible for things getting done*

*b. Someone who makes decisions and directs others*

### **B. This simple issue causes many problems**

#### **1. Our generation wants to make this an equality issue – an issue of worth**

*a. You're saying I'm worth less if I'm not in charge! b. Make everyone co-captains!*

#### **2. This makes its way into the church**

*a. You're demeaning people by not having them in charge: Women's ministries/women Pastors*

*b. So true spirituality is shown by having no leadership:*

*1. Older churches – Brethren; Modern – Emerging church movement; Anti-authority/no Pastors/no leaders*

*a. No one's in charge/we're all in charge...as the Spirit moves/whatever you feel like*

### **C. This causes great problems**

**1. It is unbiblical:** All through the Bible, God selected men to lead/be in charge

**2. It is unworkable:** Creates chaos – and strong personalities wind up in charge

## **II. ACCEPTING YOUR PLACE**

### **A. If someone has to be in charge – not everyone can be in charge!**

#### **1. Some people have to willingly allow someone else to be in charge**

*a. V8 928 sons of Benjamin... V9 Joel was overseer and Judah was second in charge*

*1. 928 not in charge at all...Judah over them – but not over Joel; Joel is responsible to lead all of them*

### **B. This is one of the profound tests of life: Accepting our place in God's design of leadership**

#### **1. Being willing to work under the leadership of another**

*a. Men who join – then try and take over! b. Men who're a part of something – but speak/work against*

*1. A profound revelation of character: Our pride/rebellion/stubbornness comes to the surface*

*a. Luke 19:14 But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us.*

*c. This is how we learn profound lessons*

*1. Subordinate our will for a greater good 2. Humility 3. Communication 4. How can I be a blessing?*

#### **2. Being willing to accept leadership over others:**

*a. Moses: I'm scared – no thanks! Afraid of responsibility – afraid of what others will think*

*1. This is what develops you for God's greater purposes: You learn things for larger usefulness!*

### **C. This is what brings the blessing of God**

#### **1. It brings the blessing on any ministry group**

*a. Psalm 133:1-3 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! <sup>2</sup> It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments: <sup>3</sup> As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.*

#### **2. It allows God to use you in a greater way: Centurion; I have authority because I am under authority**

*a. Joshua/Elisha: They were servants before they were leaders/in charge*

## **III. THE PRINCIPLE OF HUMILITY**

### **A. Pride ruins everything - so we need to learn humility (To lower ourselves or accept a lower place)**

#### **1. Chapter 11 has numbers of leaders who are named**

*a. And hundreds who are not named – but we need them all!*

#### **2. God wants you to labor – sometimes without recognition**

*a. This is good for our pride b. This is a great test: Many are unwilling to labor anonymously*

### **B. We can only do this if we have confidence in God: God sees/God rewards!**

*1. Hebrews 6:10 For God is not unjust. He will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love to him by caring for other believers, as you still do.*