



An image is "the likeness of a person, animal or thing; a mental representation, an idea, concept; a counterpart, a copy; a symbol, an emblem; an idol; to reflect the likeness of."

What is the ideal "image of Christian leadership"? The Bible presents many examples—from Moses to Paul. History has recorded leadership "images" and current leaders offer both variety and challenge.

There are basics for Christian leadership that will keep you "on track" in your ministry, that will produce a satisfying and effective, a fruitful and lasting... ministry.

LOVE... You must show it! John 13:34-35 It is the remarkable difference of the Christian ministry, a first and foremost requirement of leadership. Remember—those who need it the most are usually the hardest to love. It must be unconditional and continuous.

EXCITEMENT... You must give it! Romans 12:11 This is the "extra" of Christian leadership. Everyone is looking for a "high" and you can give it. Why not be excited about the only real answer to life's needs, to its pressures and problems.

ATTITUDES... You can shape them! Philippians 4:7-8; Matthew 12:33-35 It is how you relate to your total life and ministry. The authority over you, those you have authority over, looking at the "pluses" instead of the "minuses". It is your attitude towards your own life, the needs, and problems of others. Check out your attitudes!

DECISIONS... You must make them! 1 Kings 18:21; Joshua 24:15 You can be destroyed in ministry if you do not learn how to make decisions, to solve problems. Get the mind of God, seek counsel, make decisions and move forward. You won't always be right but you will be moving!

EXAMPLE... You have to live it! Philippians 3:17 You are being watched as a Christian leader. Your greatest responsibility is to express Godliness... This doesn't happen in the pulpit but in the everydayness of living. It is seen in your patience, kindness, unconditional love, your servant hood, forgiveness, counseling, lifestyle. Galatians 5:22

RESPONSIBILITY... You accept it! Luke 14:28 It is not always easy to do—sometimes you want to run from it! But you are responsible to those you lead, to those who have given you leadership and to God. It is pressure—but it won't break you! It will make you! Accepting responsibility gives great dividends, rewards.

STABILITY... You have to develop it! James 1:5-8; Philippians 3:13 This is the maturity needed for an effective and lasting ministry. It is avoiding extremes, maintaining your ministry. It is learning from your experience, the counsel of others, developing patience and consistency. It is sticking with the job until it is done.

HELP... You are to provide it! Luke 10:29- 37 The Christian leader must be available, willing, responsive. It is becoming a servant, willing to minister to others. (Matthew 20:25-28) It is the constant opportunity of ministry and about the time you get some "on track", along come others who need help. This is why you are needed!

INTEREST... You can maintain it! Galatians 6:7-10 This is one of the danger points in ministry, the beginning of "burn out", the loss of leadership—when you are no longer "interested" in others, their needs, problems, decisions. It is learning to listen, to identify, to be involved. Keep abreast of what is happening in your area, the trends, the needs, each individual. There is no reason to be "bored" unless you "lose interest."

PURPOSE... You had better know it! John 12:27; 1 Corinthians 9:26 Why are you doing what you are doing? What is the goal? As Christian leaders the purpose is clear (or it should be!). (Acts 1:8) It is to communicate and apply the message of the Gospel - - the Good News. (Romans 1:16-17) It is let this world know that Jesus Christ makes "the difference." (2 Corinthians 5:17) He offers forgiveness, freedom from guilt, a new beginning, a new self-image, change. It is through what Jesus Christ did on the cross. (1 Corinthians 1:17-31)

The Christian ministry needs leadership! It is the key to the Church, to your ministry. Not only are you to be a leader—but you are to reproduce leaders. 2 Timothy 2:2; Ephesians 4:12-13.

It is tough to give leadership... but it is tougher to have all the opportunity, the calling, the desire, and fail to lead because you refuse to pay the price of doing it. God wants you to lead... and He will help you do it!

Take a good look at your leadership image. If it is not what you want to see—change it! And the Lord will help you do it! Philippians 4:13.