

The Underground Church

Taught by Larry Kreider

Please write your comments on the various scriptures that are covered.

- I. God is giving His people a renewed spiritual hunger. There is dissatisfaction with the church as it is now functioning.

- II. I Samuel 7:12
 - A. When you're called to leadership, you need to know that God is with you.
 - B. Define Ebenezer: God has helped us this far.

- III. What are twenty key principles?
 - A. Principle #1 Friendship Evangelism
 1. God uses ordinary people.
 - B. Principle #2 Spiritual Fathering
 1. People need relationship.
 2. New Christians were fathered in a home meeting.
 3. Focus on the young, they the mission field.
 - C. Principle #3 Youth and Missions
 1. Paul-Timothy relationships answer the questions people are asking.
 2. Mother Teresa quote: God has not called me to be successful, He has called me to be faithful.
 - D. Principle #4 New Wine and New Wineskins
 1. When we take new life and try to put it into an old structure, both the life and the structure are ruined.
 2. Matthew 9:16-17
 3. Read page 2 in *House to House*.
 4. Newly saved youth (new wine) needed new wineskins.
 5. The Underground Church
 - E. Principle #5 Priority of Prayer

- F. Principle #6 Accountability
1. The cell is the smallest part of the body.
 2. Learn spiritual gifts.
 3. Lance's story.
 4. The Lord answers those who call on Him.
- G. Principle #7 Multiplication
1. Be sent out with a blessing
- H. Principle #8 The body of Christ provides safety
1. We need the body of Christ.
 2. Every spiritual family has something to offer.
 3. "As soon as we think we know it all, we're in trouble."
 4. A church starts officially when there is eldership and oversight being given.
- I. Principle #9 The Underground Church
1. Meets house to house and in the temple courts.
 2. The church is like a tree.
- J. Principle #10 Relationships
- K. Principle #11 Acknowledge spiritual leadership
1. When you are called to lead an established church, do everything you can to affirm the previous leadership. God deals with heart issues.
 2. If someone new begins to come to your group, be sure to affirm their previous leaders.
- L. Principle #12 Perseverance
1. There is a price to pay in leadership. No pain...no gain.
 2. The blessing is greater than the cost.
- M. Principle #13 Head and shoulders government
1. God calls leaders.
 2. We need leaders and teams.
 3. Two practical examples where head and shoulders leadership is needed are:
 - a. Cells
 - b. Elders
- N. Principle #14 Church plants
1. God's heart is the world (missions). He calls us to consider how can we multiply cell groups and congregations.
 2. What has life will reproduce.
- O. Principle #15 Don't compromise the original vision
1. Your vision will be tested by success.
 2. Someone else's vision could be different. Whatever vision God places in your heart, be sure to communicate it.

- P. Principle #16 Please God rather than man
1. Galatians 1:10
 2. Write the vision down.
- Q. Principle #17 Never adopt methods without understanding the values
1. Values are why we do what we do.
- R. Principle #18 Learn to repent
1. This brings freedom.
 2. It brings security to the people.
 3. The devil only wins if we quit.
- S. Principle #19 God is a faithful God.
1. Depend on His grace.
 2. Step out farther than what you can do.
- T. Principle #20 Learn from victories and mistakes
1. God calls us to give away what we have.

Prayer/Evangelism/Discipleship

Taught by Larry Kreider

Please write your comments on the various scriptures that are covered.

Note: The following teaching is taken from *House to House*, chapter two.

I. Introductory scripture: Matthew 28:16-20

II. What are the three very basic values that every church should have?

A. Prayer

1. Psalm 103:7
2. John 17:3
3. The heart of the gospel is that we know God through Jesus Christ.
4. God revealed His ways to Moses. God revealed His acts to the children of Israel. Moses knew God's ways; He knew that He would come through.
5. There's no way to know God except by spending time with Him.
6. Leaders start to struggle when they are caught up in doing acts and not spending time with God and getting to know Him. We need to have a daily appointment with God. There is no short cut. God is a God of relationship. When we are having time with God and getting to know Him, then we can impart to others. Prayer and time in God's Word is the most important thing. If you're struggling with having daily prayer time, be accountable to someone.
7. Ecclesiastes 4:12
 - a. Another three-stranded cord is prayer, evangelism and discipleship.
8. Luke 11:1
 - a. Jesus was an example to the disciples in prayer. They asked Him to teach them. Jesus is an example to us. The best way to pray is how Jesus prayed.
9. Fill in the significance of each part of the Lord's Prayer:
 - a. Our father in heaven, hallowed be thy name:
 - b. Your kingdom come, your will be done:
 - c. Give us this day our daily bread:
 - d. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us:
 - e. Do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
 - f. For thine is the kingdom (and the power and the glory forever):

10. Matthew 4:4
 - a. As a leader, you can become drained. We need to be filled up. How are we filled up?
 - b. If you're dry, take time to fast. Fasting gets our hearts at a place where we can hear God in a special way.

B. Evangelism

1. The purpose of God for every person, church and cell group is to reach people with the gospel of the kingdom of God .
2. I John 3:8
3. II Timothy 4:5
4. How do we fulfill our ministry?
5. What is the example of D. L. Moody?
6. Share your testimony.
7. See people through Jesus eyes. Have a heart of an evangelist for others. Keep your focus on those who are unsaved.
8. Cell groups/churches will die if they're not reaching out. New Christians bring life!

C. Discipleship

1. Matthew 28:19
 - a. Do not go and make converts; make disciples.
2. Discipleship doesn't come from the pulpit.
3. List some examples of discipleship:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
4. Define discipleship:
5. Those that we train in God should go far ahead of us.
6. What are some simple tools that may be used to help people grow in God?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
7. Discipleship is built on relationship.
8. All of us need three types of relationships. Name and define them:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
9. Mark 3:14
10. II Timothy 2:2
 - a. Look for faithful people and help them grow, that they would pass it on to others also.
11. Questions for thought
 - a. Who discipled you?
 - b. Who has motivated you to pray?

Knowing God

Taught by LaVerne Kreider

Please write your comments on the various scriptures that are covered.

- I. We need to have an intimacy with God.
 - A. We are leaders now because we are influencers.
 - B. We are a letter, written by the Spirit of the living God.
 - C. Our acts and service to God are like trinkets; He wants friendship, fellowship.
 - D. If we don't have an intimate relationship with God, we will burn out.
 - E. Ruth Graham did not become bitter, although she was left alone often to raise the kids. She had an intimacy with the Lord.
 - F. John 17:3
 - G. Philippians 3:10
 - H. Jeremiah 2:11
 - 1. God is appalled that we choose other activities over Him.
 - I. Ask yourself these questions:
 - 1. Do I take time for a love relationship?
 - 2. Am I only seeking Him for direction?
 - 3. Do I study scriptures only to get a message for others?
 - J. Hebrews 11:6
 - 1. Seek = crave
 - K. Psalm 42:7
 - L. Names of God are important
 - 1. If we know His character, there is no stopping us.
 - 2. Satan loves to lie about the character of God.
 - 3. We need to constantly be reminded who God is.
 - 4. The blood is enough.

II. Scriptures

A. Deuteronomy 14:2

B. Isaiah 26:3

C. Costly illusions:

1. We become preoccupied with ourselves as public people.
 - a. Philippians 2:13
2. We feel the need to fix everything, to make everyone happy.
 - a. II kings 3
3. We don't make mistakes EVER.

D. Hebrews 4:9,10

1. The sabbath rest is Jesus. It's a relaxed attitude that God is in control.
2. Without the sabbath rest, we have:
 - a. Guilt without rest
 - b. Unrealistic expectations
3. In order to be fruitful, we need
 - a. Rest without guilt
 - b. Expectations quieted

E. Mark 6:31

F. Galatians 5:13

G. Jeremiah 23:18

H. Mark 1:35-39

I. Habakkuk 2:1-3

J. II Corinthians 13:14

K. Proverbs 16:32

1. Self-control is the ability to order your life according to what God wants us to do and say.
2. Items of lesser priorities won't distract us until we've completed the number one task.

L. Psalm 46:10

1. Practice learning how to surrender day by day, all day long.

M. Psalm 112:7

N. Exodus 20:18-20

O. Hebrews 12:18-25

Servant Leadership

Taught by Larry Kreider

Please write your comments on the various scriptures that are covered.

- I. Key scripture: Philippians 2:5-7

- II. Identify with the one to whom you minister.
 - A. The key to see ministry grow is to train up leaders to do what you do.
 - B. People will watch you if you are a leader.
 - C. You need to serve the one you lead.
 1. Matthew 20:25-28

- III. Who are you called to serve? Who is in your metron? (Sphere of authority and responsibility)
 - A. John 13:1-17

- IV. How do you lead?
 - A. II Chronicles 10:7
 - B. Sheep will follow shepherds.
 - C. I Corinthians 11:1
 - D. Don't be afraid to sow seeds.
 - E. Go two by two. Take people along with you to minister. People need relationships.
 1. I Timothy 1:5
 2. I John 3:18
 - F. The key to servant leadership is our attitude in serving.
 1. Matthew 25:40
 2. Matthew 9:36
 3. Ephesians 4:16

- G You can serve by giving encouragement.
1. Hebrews 3:13
 2. A new Christian needs encouragement.
 3. Hebrews 5:14

Cell Leaders' Qualifications

Taught by Larry Kreider

Please write your comments on the various scriptures that are covered.

I. What is an important key to leadership?

II. What are 16 Basic Qualifications for Cell Leadership?

A.

1. Ephesians 4:1
2. Have we been talked into it? Can we be talked out of it?
3. I Timothy 3:1
4. God's call and God's timing may be two different things. We sense the call, and then we work through the timing. What are three scriptural examples?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

B.

1. People follow leaders when they see them showing servant leadership.
2. I Timothy 3:10

C.

1. I Timothy 4:14

D.

1. I Thessalonians 5:12

E.

1. I Peter 5:5
2. Realize that without Jesus, we can do nothing. We can learn humility by serving under someone that we don't always agree with.
3. Ephesians 4:16 If we are walking in humility, we will take the time to serve with the people to whom God has called us.

F.

1. II Timothy 1:12
2. Have a testimony of our salvation, but also what God is doing in our lives right now.

G

1. Romans 10:17
2. Acts 6:5

H.

1. Division and disloyalty destroy from the inside out.
2. I Corinthians 1:10

I.

1. II Timothy 2:24
2. Be more concerned about the people than about the meeting.

J.

1. Define "Entheos"
2. Colossians 3:23

K.

1. Cell leaders need to train future leaders in order to work themselves out of a job.
2. Philippians 2:4

L.

1. I Timothy 3:6

M.

N.

1. Matthew 23:23
2. Malachi 3:10
3. The purpose of the tithe is to honor.

O.

1. Hebrews 13:17
 - a. Be accountable to God
 - b. Be accountable to others

P.

1. Trust is not in themselves.

Hospitality

Taught by LaVerne Kreider

Please write your comments on the various scriptures that are covered.

I. Hospitality is...

- A. An integral part of the New Testament church.
- B. A wonderful gift given to us to minister to a dying society.
- C. Something that must be practiced.
- D. Not just for women.
- E. Not an option for Christians.

II. Scriptures

- A. Exodus 22:21
- B. Matthew 25:45-46
- C. II Corinthians 5:18
- D. Matthew 10:12-15,40-42
- E. Romans 12:9-13
 - 1. Who is exempt from hospitality?
 - 2. To be hospitable is to be given to generous or cordial reception of guests or offering a _____ pleasant or sustaining environment.
 - 3. Who else is called to hospitality?
- F. I Timothy 3:2
- G. Titus 1:7,8
- H. I Timothy 5:10
 - 1. Widows had to show hospitality in order to qualify for support.

- I. Romans 16:23
 - 1. Our homes are remarkable tools to minister to the oppressed.
 - 2. The key is availability.

III. To whom do we practice hospitality?

- A. Galatians 6:10
- B. III John 1:5-8
- C. Hebrews 13:2
- D. Romans 12:16
- E. Luke 14:12

IV. Atmosphere:

- A. Luke 7:44-46
- B. Pray that people feel that their feet have been washed, that they have been refreshed by being in your home. Pray a blessing over the house.
- C. Take communion together.

V. Difference between hospitality and entertaining:

- A. Entertaining:
 - 1. Says "I want to impress"
 - 2. Puts things before people
 - 3. Looks for payment and compliments

- B. Hospitality:
 - 1. Says "I want to minister. This is not my own"
 - 2. Puts people before things
 - 3. Doesn't look for reward

VI. What are three types of givers?

A.

B.

C.

VII. Questions

A. Is it ever right to say “no”? Yes! Jesus did. He knew his priorities.

1. Mark 1:35-38

B. What about Martha?

1. John 12:1-3

C. What if you're a leader and don't like to have people in?

1. Find people to help you (those who have a gift and enjoy it.)

2. Encourage cell leaders to practice hospitality.

D. What about long-term hospitality?

1. There are different seasons of hospitality for different times of your life.

2. Allow God to show you. Get a word from the Lord.

3. Make sure the entire family feels good about it.

4. Write down guidelines, expectations.

VIII. The Holy Spirit wants to continually stretch us to develop hospitality in our lives.

Grace/Offenses

Taught by Larry Kreider

Please write your comments on the various scriptures that are covered.

- I. Defining grace and offenses. They are opposites.
 - A. I Corinthians 15:10 By the grace of God I am what I am!
 - B. There are two sides to the grace coin
 1. GRACE is the unmerited favor of God on ill-deserving and undeserving.
 2. GRACE is power and desire to do His will.
 3. How does it apply to ministry? We have a picture of how things should turn out and they turn out different. It is not fair?
 4. He wants to use us, but it is totally by the grace of God.
 - C. 1 Peter 5:5-6 He opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.
 - D. Humble yourself
 - E. Colossians 4:6 If we understand grace we will not gossip.
 - F. Matthew 20:1-16
 1. If we don't understand grace, we will pick up an offense.
 2. I Thessalonians. 5:18 In everything give thanks
 - G. Zechariah 4:6-7
 1. Shout "Grace, Grace"!
 2. Student body shouted grace over new campus.
 - H. Hebrews 12:15
 1. There is a balance between grace and offense
 - a. As long as we are really walking in the grace of God, it will outweigh the offenses.
 - b. If we start walking in offenses, we begin to fall short of God's grace.
 - I. Luke 17: 1 Offense will come.
 - J. People are offended by unmet expectations
 1. Offense means a movable stick, bait, like trapping monkeys. Let it go.
 2. Matthew 16:21-23 we think short term, but God is thinking long term.
 3. The worst offense is a borrowed offense.

K. Reasons people are offended.

1. Some people are overly sensitive.
2. Some people are insensitive.
3. Because of unforgiveness.
4. Some people have a spirit of rebellion. Rebellion breeds offense.
5. Some people are just critical

II. Our responsibility as leaders.

- A. A primary struggle that we deal with in leadership is offense with other leaders and offense from people in the congregation or cell group, when things are changed which they can't accept.

Holy Men, Holy Buildings

Taught by Larry Kreider

Please write your comments on the various scriptures that are covered.

I. What are two myths the modern-day church has believed? Acts 17:11

A.

1. Ephesians 4:12
2. We are all called to be ministers. Cell groups give people the opportunity to minister.
3. One man is not called to hold up the entire church. We are all called to minister.

B.

1. Healthy cell group ministry will solve the problems of both these myths.

II. Many people have more than one gift of the fivefold ministry. (Ephesians 4:11-12)

A. What are these gifts?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

B. Most people are a gift mix.

1. Titus 1:5
2. Acts 14:23

C. We are all called to do the work of ministering.

1. Acts 15:22-41
2. Persons with fivefold ministry gifts train and equip us to minister.

Fields of Ministry

Taught by Brian Sauder

Please write your comments on the various scriptures that are covered.

- I. Fields of ministry is an important truth.
 - A. II Corinthians 10:13-16
 - 1. Fields - Greek "metron" means measure, a sphere of activity that defines the limits of one's power and influence.
 - B. Ephesians 4:7,8
 - 1. Grace as Christ apportioned
 - 2. Apportioned - metron
 - 3. Specific grace for field
 - C. Psalm 16:5-7
 - 1. Boundary lines do not limit us, but allow us to be fruitful in certain areas.
 - 2. Pleasant and secure place
- II. Examples of fields of ministry
 - A. Body of Christ, local church, cell group, community, marriage, job
 - B. Genesis 1:26
 - 1. God gave Adam and Eve authority over the whole world, but over the garden of Eden first. Satan came into their field, and they surrendered authority to Satan.
 - 2. Note: Not everyone who comes into your field is from the Lord!
 - 3. The usurper will come to take your field. Stand against him with great confidence and grace.
- III. God determines and expands your fields of ministry.
 - A. Psalm 75:6-7
 - 1. Fields of ministry are trusts.
 - B. Matthew 10:1
 - 1. Jesus gave His disciples authority.

- C. Paul's field and Peter's field
 - 1. Galatians 2:7-9, 11-13
 - 2. Paul came under the Jerusalem elders in their field, but was over others in his own field.
 - 3. Ask to minister in someone's house.

- D. There can be temporary authority in others' fields.
 - 1. I Timothy 1:1-4
 - a. Paul assigned to Timothy a portion of authority.
 - 2. You have great authority and confidence in your field.
 - 3. If you get outside of your field, you are outside of grace and you oppose God. Then He'll oppose you.
 - 4. Presuming that anointing and authority is general for anytime is dangerous, even when done in ignorance.

IV. How to determine the spiritual fields God has given you

- A. Acts 17:5-6, 12-13; 18:5-8,12; 21:17-19
 - 1. Paul discovered the areas where he didn't have grace (with the Jews).
 - 2. Paul understood fields and appealed to others in their fields.

- B. Allow God to assign you your fields and to expand them as you are faithful.

- C. Don't stand for the enemy's activity in your fields! Cover them.
 - 1. II Corinthians 11:28-29
 - 2. Stand in the gap for your fields. Do spiritual warfare.

V. Applications for church planting

- A. Be responsible within one's present metron; build it; God will enlarge or move it according to His purposes.

- B. Recognize the importance of territory to define one's metron and to give oneself to that metron.
 - 1. Personal investment in the territory
 - 2. Spiritual warfare for the territory

- C. Avoid infringing upon the spiritual territory of another (church, leader, etc.)
 - 1. Work cooperatively, respectfully with existing efforts within one's geographical sphere
 - 2. Evil powers take advantage of confusion over authority when one intrudes into the sphere of another
 - a. In relating to people
 - b. In prayer (to make things go the way we see it rather than the way the person responsible for that metron is led by the Spirit to pray or do)

Leadership and Decision Making

Taught by Larry Kreider

Please write your comments on the various scriptures that are covered.

Note: Additional information on this topic may be found in *House to House*, chapter 12.

I. Making decisions

A. Questions to consider:

1. How do we make decisions?
2. Do we do what everybody says?
3. What process is scriptural?

B. A lot of church misunderstandings come from the decision-making process.

C. Read about DOVE's experience in *House to House*, page 6.

II. Three principles of New Testament church leadership

A. God speaks through and appoints a leader to oversee His work.

1. Numbers 27:15-20
2. James 3:4
3. Acts 13:13
4. Acts 21:18
5. Give an example:
6. What is a "PVC"?

B. God speaks through and calls teams who labor together to fulfill His purposes.

1. Acts 14:23
2. Acts 16:4
3. 1 Peter 5:1
4. Acts 20:17
5. Hebrews 13:7
6. Hebrews 13:17

C. God speaks through His people.

1. Acts 6:1-7
2. Acts 15:22

III. What are three kinds of church government?

A.

B.

C.

IV. The church is ruled through theocracy.

A. Jesus Christ governs through qualified leaders that He has ordained for the task.

B. Psalm 133

1. God wants to bring a blessing / life.

C. Everyone on a team must be convinced that God has called him or her and everyone else to be on that team and that each role is of God.

D. A wise head (leader) will...

1. ...listen to what God is saying to him,

2. ...listen to the supportive shoulders and

3. ...listen to the body.

E. Leaders are called to get under people and support them, but to also make decisions for the whole group.

V. Decision-making process:

A. Pray and listen to God

B. The "head" needs to hear from the shoulders and the head and shoulders need to get input from the body.

C. Come to a place of agreement. If there's not a place of agreement, take some more time to pray.

D. Final decision is then up to the leader. He discerns what the Lord is saying through the shoulders.

E. Other thoughts

1. If the head detaches itself from the shoulders or is pushed down onto the level of the shoulders, it creates a pain in the neck. Relationship, trust and honor are keys.

2. The head does not have absolute authority; it has final authority.

3. To have authority, we need to be under authority.

4. Leadership is based on trust and relationship.
5. When new churches start, the tendency is to have too many elders.
6. All leadership teams need an “outside court of appeal” Cell leaders have elders, and elders have apostolic leadership to help them.

VI. Acts 15

- A. James listened while everyone talked and then he made a decision about what God was telling them to do. He discerned what the Lord was saying through the group of leaders.
- B. The difficulty with voting is that someone always wins and someone always loses. But within God’s kingdom, that shouldn’t be so. We honor the anointing that is on leadership and appeal to them in love.

VII. Acts 15:36-41

- A. The disagreement over John Mark might have been avoided if there had been a clearer picture of who was the head of the team.
- B. Decisions that affect the whole group should be made by the team.

VIII. Needs that exist within a head and shoulders type government:

- A. The head needs the affirmation of those working with him.
- B. The shoulders need to be in relationship with the head.

Crossing the River

(What To Do When You Feel Like Giving Up)

Taught by Larry Kreider

Please write your comments on the various scriptures that are covered.

- I. Obeying God involves a fight.
 - A. II Timothy 4:7
 - B. We have many examples from the Bible of those who had to wrestle in fulfilling God's purpose for their lives.
 1. Absalom did not finish his race.
 2. Keep your heart pure and receive the grace of God to finish your race.
 - C. Very seldom do we see the blessing without perseverance. We can trust God to give us perseverance.

- II. God has plans for good, not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.
 - A. Jeremiah 29:11
 - B. We go through various seasons in life and in ministry. What are the three basic seasons?
 - 1.
 2.
 - a. Often brings confusion, conflict and uncertainty
 - b. When you have problems, separate them and trust God to work through one problem at a time.
 - c. During this season, we feel like quitting; what do we do?
 - 1) Quit and abort God's plan. (II Timothy 4:10)
 - 2) Resist quitting and go on to step #3.
 - 3.
 - C. The key - Do we finish the plans God gives us?
 1. Examples from the life of Noah and Joseph - they faced each of these 3 seasons and saw the blessing of the Lord.
 2. "By perseverance, the snail reached the ark." —Charles Spurgeon
 3. There is a tremendous stage #3 if we persevere through stage #2.
 4. It's futile to talk too much about the past.
 - D. Philippians 1:29

Character Development for Leaders

Taught by Steve Prokopchak

Please write your comments on the various scriptures that are covered.

- I. Job's affliction
 - A. God's view of Job—no one like him; blameless; upright; shuns evil; and fears God...Job 1:6-8
 - B. Satan is released to afflict everything Job has—everything, but not his physical self.
 - C. Job's first loss: oxen, donkeys, and servants. While this messenger was still speaking (verse 16), he loses sheep and servants. Another messenger comes to say that he lost camels and servants (verse 17). While this messenger was still speaking (verse 18), Job loses his sons and daughters—all of them.
- II. Job's response? Grief-stricken
 - A. "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; *may the name of the Lord be praised.*"
 - B. Satan receives permission to afflict Job's physical body (chapter 2, verses 4-6).
- III. Job's wife asks him a key question
 - A. "Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die!" (Job 2:9)
- IV. Integrity—what is it?
 - A. Webster Dictionary: "Strict adherence to a standard of value or conduct. Personal honesty and soundness."
- V. Apostolic work is a work that must be filled with men and women of integrity
 - A. A high place is a dangerous place. High places expose us to temptations. Satan failed in tempting Jesus so he took Him to a high place and showed Him kingdoms, authority and splendor. Satan told Jesus that he could give it all to Him—with condition (Luke 4:5-7)
- VI. Whenever there is power and authority there is opportunity to abuse it
 - A. Richard Foster wrote concerning power, "Nothing is more dangerous than leaders accountable to no one."
- VII. What's the answer? The answer is a new kind of power
 - A. Jesus introduced it. He abdicated His rights to show us power with a redemptive purpose. "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve" (Matthew 20:28). Jesus was not called to become an earthly king. His kingdom was not of this world (see John 7:16-18).

- B. “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!” (Philippians 2:3-8)

VIII. What causes a loss of integrity?

A. Loss of vision/mission

1. “Where there is no revelation (vision) the people cast off restraint; but blessed is he who keeps the law” (Proverbs 29:18).
2. Loss of vision provokes a loss of restraint—a moral compass begins to be pulled magnetically in another direction. You can no longer determine true North.

B. Insecurity—this is taking vision to the opposite extreme

1. This is when we become so full of our ministry, our vision, ourselves that we allow self-pride to blind us from our sin and loss of integrity.
 - a. Fear of rejection—In the beginning of his reign, King Saul had a whole nation following him. It wasn't long until his insecurities began to show. In 1 Samuel 13:11-12, Saul performed the offering to the Lord on his own—not waiting on Samuel. Samuel said, “What have you done?” Saul's reply? “When I saw that the people were scattered from me...” Saul moved in insecurity fearing the rejection of his followers. An insecure leader demands signs of inordinate loyalty—no matter the cost to the follower.
 - b. Insecure leaders fear honest confrontation—Insecure leaders will use others to perform their “dirty work.” Because of insecurity, they are afraid of direct, straight-forward communication.
 - c. Insecure leaders are critical of other leaders—Insecure leaders have an insatiable desire for any praise and recognition, especially if someone else is receiving it.
 - d. Insecure leaders feel they must project only strength—In their minds, to show any sign of weakness is to project an image of low value.
 - e. Ultimately, an insecure leader must maintain control—In his mind, control holds position, control holds onto authority, control is power. An insecure leader must maintain control of his people because to release control is too scary. The fear? Loss of control = loss of his leadership position.

C. A perversion of righteousness

1. “What is sin to one may not be to another.” This becomes an excuse to stray from the biblical boundaries of right living.
2. Proverbs 13:6—“Righteousness guards the man of integrity, but wickedness overthrows the sinner.”

IX. Building character means combating these areas of temptations in your life

A. A loss of vision/mission

1. To maintain the mission, keep your eyes off of man and yourself and focus on the

Father's will. Jesus maintained His mission by keeping His eyes off the Pharisees and on the Father. "Teacher," they said, "we know you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren't swayed by men, because you pay no attention to who they are" (Matthew 22:16).

2. To "love the Lord-your God" is to put His mission first in your life. Paul said it this way, "Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ?" (Galatians 1:10).

B. What brings security to you as an apostolic leader?

1. Knowing your personal worth and value in your Lord Jesus Christ
 - a. Our security is in God's love and approval of us. Rather than being driven for the approval of men, we live in the approval of God alone (Ephesians 1 and Colossians 1:21-23). Whose approval are you ultimately seeking? Do you perform differently when no one is looking?
2. Knowing your calling in spite of the approval of man (John 8:12-14)
 - a. Knowing who you are and being assured of your call and purpose. Knowing it so deeply that you are able to release others without the fear of them messing up and making you as a leader look bad.
3. Secure leaders do not need to criticize others or attempt to control others to get the upper hand
 - a. Instead they walk in a Philippians 2:3-4 attitude. Do you feel better about your leadership if another leader is failing?
4. Secure leaders do not need to impress anyone
 - a. They know where their approval has come from (1 Thessalonians 2:4-6a). Secure leaders do not need to resort to flattery or hide behind a mask!
5. Secure leaders are not afraid of the truth
 - a. Sometimes the truth is exposing a weakness within ourselves, confessing a sin to a brother or sister, being willing to suffer unjustly without justifying ourselves. Jesus is our justifier because Jesus is the only just one—Romans 3:26. We do not need to justify ourselves because we have been justified—Romans 5:1.
6. Secure leaders know that to love God is to obey God (John 14:15)
 - a. Unlike Saul, we choose a proper, biblical fear of the Lord, a respect that goes far beyond the "what will others think" thought. When we obey God, we obey Him fully with no bleating of sheep in the background.
7. Secure leaders only motivation is not power, not money, not recognition, not notoriety, but a pure heart before God
 - a. Desiring the best for Him, His kingdom, and His people. This takes us back to Philippians 2:1-9.

C. A perversion of righteousness

1. Perform the "If" test of Job on yourself: Job 31:5, 7, 9, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19, 21, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29, 33, 38, and 39.
2. Gandhi once said that if Christians lived according to their faith, there would be no more Hindus in India (Mother Teresa, *In My Own Words*, p. 102).
3. Job in the end: Job 27:5-6 "...I will not deny my integrity. I will maintain my righteousness and never let go of it..."