

Will Godly Leaders Please Rise Up **1 Thessalonians 2:1-12**

Leadership is so important! **Godly leadership is even more so!**

Unfortunately, there is a huge distrust for those in leadership today!

So what do we do? Do we abandon the need for leaders, or do we redefine what leaders are called to be & how they are called to lead under God?

There's a difference between just being in a position of authority & being a leader! **One is a position of power; the other is a position of influence.**

We need leaders who can lead & influence change in this world, but we need Godly leaders to lead & influence the kind of change that is needed!

This is why God calls pastors, elders & deacons to provide leadership in the Church! B/c if the Church is the hope of the world, then the Church needs Godly leaders to lead it in living out this purpose in every generation.

God knew what the city of Thessalonica needed – **they needed the gospel!** And God raised up leaders to bring that city the hope they needed.

It starts with raising up leaders, and the same is true today!

We need Godly leadership, those who understand that God has a mission for the Church, that we have work to do in this world! That the Church is God's "plan A" for His Kingdom rule being established in this world!

This mission will bring about opposition, Godly leaders know it, but they proceed forward b/c they know what is at stake is too great to back down from!

Consider Paul, Silas & Timothy. They went to Thessalonica to share the gospel when they had just suffered and were shamefully treated in Philippi!

It would have been easy to just say, "Ok let's not do that again!" But true leaders, called by God, push through the opposition instead of giving into it!

Godly leaders understand the difference between constructive criticism and opposition! **Constructive criticism seeks to enhance the mission forward,** opposition seeks to stop or hinder it!

Paul, Silas and Timothy knew that their mission to plant churches and make disciples was the right mission, they were fully convinced of it – **Vs. 3**

They also knew that God had called them to this work – **Vs. 4.**

Their leadership was never about their own flattery, greed or glory – Vs. 5-6.

Their leadership was God-centered and God-glorifying! If only leaders today had this focus, then maybe trust could be restored in those who lead!

You see, how leaders lead is just as important as having leaders who lead!

Vs 7 - When have you ever heard leadership compared to a nursing mother?

Godly leadership principles from observing nursing mothers:

- Gentleness – Such gentle care is given when nursing a child – Vs. 7
- Affection – Such great love is displayed towards an infant – **Vs 8**
- Selflessness – Mom's give endlessly of themselves – Vs. 8.
- Labor of love – **"A mom's job is never done"** – **Vs. 9**

What if leaders today applied these "nursing mother" principles in their leadership of others? How would their leadership be different?

Godly leadership comes out of a deep love & care for those whom they lead

This is how Paul, Silas, & Timothy modeled leadership in Thessalonica!

But it doesn't stop there, there is more to Godly leadership than just motherly care, **there is also fatherly exhortation, encouragement & charge.**

"For you know how, like a father with his children, we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory" – Vs. 11-12.

Godly leadership principles from observing a father with his children:

- Exhortation – To come alongside to aid, direct & instruct with wisdom.
- Encouragement – To comfort & spur a person forward.
- **Charge** – To place before a person a calling/purpose to pursue.

"It is not enough for leaders just to be compassionate, tender, & caring as spiritual mothers. They also need to teach the truth faithfully, build up the saints in spiritual wisdom, and display the courage of conviction to come alongside and exhort and call their spiritual children to obedience." – MacArthur

Will Godly leaders please rise up? The Church needs it, the world needs it!

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