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The Leader in Each of Us!

Leaders

- When we think of leaders, we think of those in charge. One entrusted with OR who wields authority over others.
- American Heritage Dictionary:
 1. One who leads or guides
 2. One who is in charge or in command of others
 3. One who is in charge of a group of people
 4. One who has influence or power...

Leaders

- We typically think of “positional” leaders (appointed, holding a position, etc.).
- But at some level, we are ALL to be leaders:
 1. We guide others in various ways
 2. We are in charge of our demeanor toward others which affects relationships
 3. We have influence that can direct others

Leaders

- Leaders are important. Effective leaders are a primary factor in the success of an organization or business.
- The character of leaders matters and has an impact on their entity.
- The same is true of the Lord's church. We need good leaders. Godly, effective leaders will shape a congregation – both in its doctrinal stands and organization.
- God intended it to be that way! It was part of His eternal plan (**Ephesians 3:10-11, 4:11-16**, etc.)

We are all to be leaders

- There are leadership qualities that we ALL need to possess as Christians.
- While positional leaders lead directly, with the same qualities we may lead indirectly
 - People are watching and learning from you
 - Your decisions and actions can impact others
- “Leadership happens any time we influence the thinking, behavior or development of another person” (Kenneth Blanchard, [Lead Like Jesus](#))

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The Leader in Each of Us!

We are all to be leaders

As Christians, we are called to be different

- **Romans 12:2** – not conformed/transformed
- **1 Peter 4:1-4** – they think it strange
- We are the few – **Matthew 7:13-14**
2 Corinthians 6:17
- We stand out, but we can influence –
cf. Matthew 13:33

We are all to be leaders

As Christians, we are called to be different

- “Minister”
- Describes positional leaders – **Colossians 1:7, 23, 4:7; 1 Thess. 3:2**)
- It means a servant (διάκονος, diakonos)
- We are all servants – **Hebrews 6:10, 1 Peter 4:10-11, Galatians 5:13**
(δουλεύω)

We are all to be leaders

As Christians, we are called to be different

- **Cf. 2 Timothy 2:24-26**

What qualifies them is that they care about others and serve!

- MOST qualities defining spiritual leaders apply to every Christian (especially influence).

Ways we all lead

By Example

- **Matthew 5:13,16, Philippians 2:15**
- People are always watching. Example is our greatest tool of influence, whether good or bad.
- AND you are learning from others as well.

Ways we all lead

With Integrity

- **Proverbs 10:9, 11:3, 2 Peter 1:5**
- We must be people of integrity.
- Integrity – steadfast adherence to a strict moral or ethical code
- You will not yield or fail under pressure
- Our world desperately needs to see integrity
- When we stand up for what is right... others may stand with us

Ways we all lead

Grounded in God's Word

- **2 Timothy 2:15, 1 Peter 3:15**
- Can we defend our faith?
- We should not be easily swayed – **Ephesians 4:12-15 (cf. 2 Timothy 4:2-4)**
- Will we stand for truth, even in a “hostile” environment?

If we hear error in our midst, will we challenge it?

Ways we all lead

By doing what needs to be done

- If you see something, you do it!
- **Titus 3:14** – be careful to maintain good works
- **Ephesians 4:16** – every part does its share
- Far too often we are content (expect) for others to do what needs to be done.
- But when someone starts, others join in (e.g., Nehemiah – **Neh. 6:15, 4:6**)

Ways we all lead

By serving others

- Jesus taught leadership by serving others
John 13:12-16
- **Matthew 20:25-28** – He came to serve
- **Galatians 5:13** – through love we serve one another
- **1 Peter 5:2-4** – e.g., elders - not as lords, but examples

Ways we all lead

By following others

- NO one on earth is supreme ruler. We ALL answer to someone (either rulers do).
- A Christian is always willing to follow and to learn
- Disciple - **Matthew 28:19-20, John 8:31**
- **Hebrews 13:7, 17** – we submit to the elders
- Even if we would prefer to do things differently (though it must be scriptural)
- **Ephesians 5:21, 1 Peter 5:5**
– submit to one another

Ways we all lead

By caring

- As Christians, we HAVE to care!
- **Philippians 2:3-4** – look out for their interests
- **1 Thessalonians 5:14**
- **Hebrews 12:12-13**
- **Galatians 6:1-2**
- If we care, might keep others from giving up, or to make correction

Ways we all lead

By not giving up

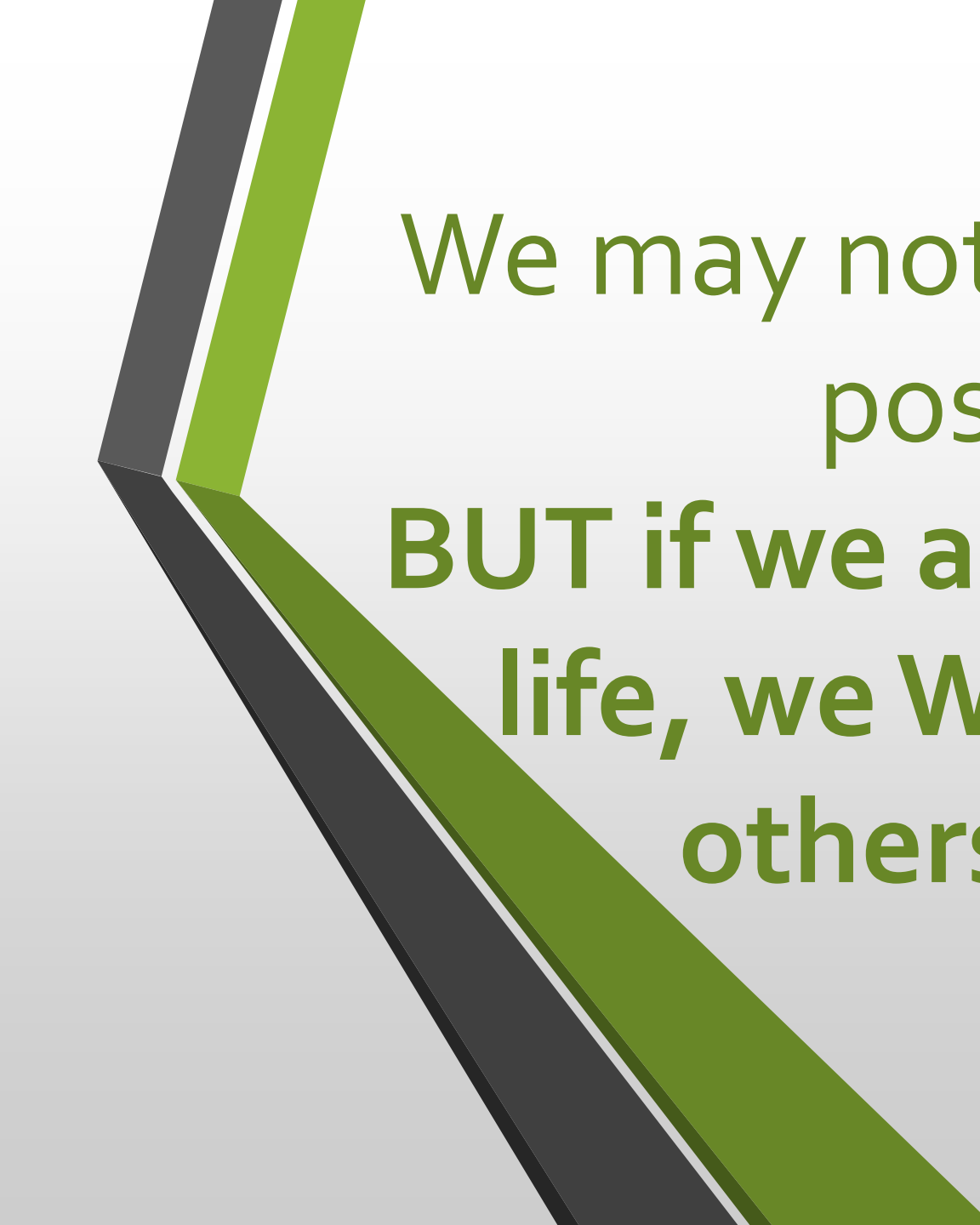
- We MUST continue to endure. Far too many quit or surrender too easily.
- **Galatians 6:9** – let us not grow weary
- **Hebrews 12:1-2, 1 Cor. 9:24**
- **Hebrews 3:14**
- When we endure, we can motivate others to endure with us.

If we give up, how can we influence others?

Ways we all lead

By not giving up

- Effective leaders KNOW that they will fail from time to time.
- It is not about failures, but how we respond!
- **Philippians 3:14** – forgetting what is behind and pressing on!



We may not be able to lead in the
positional sense.

**BUT if we are living the Christian
life, we WILL be influencing
others in many ways.**

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**Are you working to LEAD
others to Christ?**

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Let us pray!