

Leadership Essentials as Servants of Christ's Church

Christ Fellowship Bible Church

This list briefly summarizes and compiles some essential characteristics and biblical roles that the servant-leader at Christ Fellowship Bible Church must commit to.

1. Love for Christ.

The man who serves in the church of the Lord Jesus Christ must have and exemplify a genuine love for the Savior. The man who leads the local church in a leadership capacity must be a man with a passionate zeal for Jesus Christ. This must fuel his service and ministry. This love for Christ can be evidenced in his frequent times of meeting with God in bible reading and prayer. The man serving in this role should be an example to the flock of what loving Christ looks like. This includes his own personal bible reading time as well as his personal holiness and his zeal for aggressive sanctification. Loving Christ causes him to hate his sin. Loving Christ also creates a zeal for evangelism in his heart. The man of God who serves Christ's church must love Christ.

2. Diligence in Shepherding.

One primary role that a shepherd has is feeding his sheep. In Christ's church, this means that the shepherd must faithfully feed the flock with the Word of God. Thus, he should have a willingness and an ability to teach. But pastoral ministry and eldership involves much more than simply teaching publically. It also includes diligence in learning about the welfare of the flock and carefully, deliberately, and frequently being involved in their lives. It requires teaching not only publically but also from house to house. The man of God must desire and evidence diligence in caring for God's people by pointing them to Christ, directing their thoughts to the gospel, and reproving their sin. The man can evidence this by being hospitable and inviting people into his home for meals, by doing visitation and learning and attending to the spiritual welfare of the flock, and by discipling those toward Christlikeness during the week.

3. Regularity in Discipleship.

The importance of pouring into a few godly men for discipleship cannot be overestimated. Paul told Timothy to take what he taught him and entrust it to other faithful men who can then teach others. Shepherding practically happens when believers bring the Word of God to bear in specific life-situations. The man of God should desire to be in a discipling relationship so as to teach, equip, train, and encourage other men in Christ's church. This also relates to the leader's desire to see no one on the 'fringes.' In other words, a servant of Christ longs to see no 'un-involved' members.

4. Availability to Convene.

Another element that a leader at CFBC should demonstrate is a willingness to meet two times a month for elder meetings. Not only should the man be willing but also available to convene two times a month. The thinking behind the two meetings a month includes the following. One meeting will primarily focus on prayer, bible reading, and theological study. The second meeting will primarily cover prayer, shepherding issues, leadership thoughts, CFBC counseling situations. The importance of this cannot be overstated. The men who serve at CFBC in a shepherd-leadership role must be 'available' and have the time that they are willing and able to devote to shepherding duties and responsibilities. To faithfully pray for each member of CFBC, to diligently

study God's Word together, to dutifully discuss shepherding issues at CFBC, the men must gather regularly.

5. Commitment to Prayer.

Prayer is the mightiest spiritual weapon the Christian has. To neglect prayer is to neglect spiritual power. One of the surest marks that a man of God is ready for leadership is his commitment to pray fervently, frequently, and faithfully. This can reveal itself in a couple of ways. First, the leader must devote himself to prayer personally. He must 'meet with God' not merely go through a list and say 'his prayers.' There is a world of difference between *having* to pray and *hungering* to pray. A man without prayer is a ship without a rudder. A man who does not pray is akin to a house without a roof open to every trouble, temptation, and hardship that may fall upon him. He must pray for his wife, for his children, for the flock at CFBC, for the leaders, for his own soul and life, and for the lost. Second, the man of God can demonstrate his commitment to prayer by leading his family in prayer during the week. Those that do not lead their families in prayer are like military chiefs that lead their soldiers into combat without any armor, teaching, or protection. They will soon be inflicted, wounded with many blows and soon enough they will die. The man of God should pray for and with his family regularly. He should intercede for them *with them* and beg God to bless his household, his wife, his children, and his own headship in the home. Third, the elder must have the availability and flexibility to go to someone in the flock and pray with and for them for healing (James 5).

6. Piety at Home.

A trait that Paul brings out in the qualification lists in the New Testament requires that a man of God be a lover of his wife and her alone and that he lead and manage his own household well. It follows then, that the servant in Christ's church must demonstrate a willing, joyous, sacrificial, continuous love for his wife. He must be desirous to selflessly love her and quick to repent when he fails. He must be quick to receive Christ's grace and cling to the Spirit's enabling grace to love her sacrificially. He should live at home in a such a way that the wife can unequivocally affirm his integrity and his ability to lead Christ's flock because he has proven himself to lead his own flock at home. He should wash his wife in the Word. The elder must pray with and for his wife. The elder must wash her in the Word of God. He must read the Word with her and teach her the truths about Scripture. He must be her greatest discipler and her greatest pastor. This can happen by reading the Word together each morning, evening, or throughout the day as opportunities arise. Piety in the home not only requires fidelity to the relationship with the wife but also his faithful instruction of his children in the works and Word of the Lord. The elder should lead his children in family worship, discipleship, mentoring, and instruction. Perhaps the father's greatest duty is to take the Word of God and impart its glorious truths to his children — each of them. This can happen through family worship when they family consistently reads the Word together and the father teaches and instructs from Scripture. The father can also strive to mentor his children by discipling them, instructing them, informing their worldview, and teaching them biblical truth. The man of God is qualified to serve as an elder in Christ's church only when he has proven himself faithful (note: not perfect, but faithful) in leading the small flock that God has entrusted to him in his own household. The quality of a man's shepherding at home will reveal the quality of a man's shepherding in the Church.