

## *The Responsibility and Cost of Leadership*

[www.aubeacon.com](http://www.aubeacon.com)

**Introduction:** Men and women are in need of leaders.

- A. Our ultimate leader, Jesus Christ, recognized this great need in men. **(Mt 9:36-38)**
  - 1. We may claim to be enlightened but in reality we are weak social creatures. We are sheep!
  - 2. The nation of Israel needed leaders. Why? They were sheep! **(Num 27:15-18)**
  - 3. Look at some of the most educated nations in history and how easily they followed a crazy man! (Ex. Nazi Germany)
- B. The home is designed by God and is a place where leadership is demanded.
  - 1. The failure or success of the home will determine the failure or success of a nation or the church itself.
  - 2. This ought to produce great humility in us that is daily expressed to God in our prayers. Perhaps we should have prayers like Manoah! **(Jud 13:8; Jas 1:5)**

### ***I. God has given men a special responsibility as leaders***

- A. After the fall of mankind, God placed man in a position of leadership.
  - 1. There were things both in the creation and in the fall of man that this order is based on. **(1 Cor 11:3, 8-9; 1 Tim 2:11-14)**
  - 2. In both Old and New Testament the leadership in the nation and then in the church were to be male leadership. **(1 Tim 3:2, 12)**
  - 3. This does not mean that men are smarter or even more capable of leadership. This is a God-given place that we must recognize because God is our head!
- B. This leadership is to be like the Lord's. **(1 Cor 11:3; Eph 5:25-28)**
  - 1. Great leaders always put the good of those that they lead first!
  - 2. Leadership requires great courage and a willingness to suffer and even die.
  - 3. The one who can teach us the most about real leadership is Jesus Christ. **(Roman 5:6-8)**
- C. All women are to be leaders too!
  - 1. It was written on a tee shirt: "You can't scare me, I have children!"
  - 2. Many women have to take on positions that have been abandoned by men.
  - 3. In my life there are numerous women whose example has inspired me to be a better leader in the places God has placed me.
  - 4. There is a great leadership in respecting God's order even when those over us are failing. **(1 Pt 2:18; 3:1)**

### ***II. Leaders are to stand with the Lord***

- A. Strong leadership in the wrong thing is tragic. **(Ps 20:6-8)**
  - 1. Where is your heart? What is your core?
  - 2. What are we without a complete trust in God?
- B. Joshua moment of truth came when Israel was first defeated at Ai. **(Josh 7:6)**
  - 1. The sin of Achan caused this defeat. What could Joshua have done better as a leader?

2. He could not be an effective leader without a people who understood and trusted in the Lord. The Lord was their strength, not Joshua! (**Josh 8:32-25**)

C. Men, are you the leader in spiritual things in your home? (**Eph 6:4**)

### ***III. Leaders are grown***

A. Where did “David’s might men” get their courage and strength? (**2 Sam 23:1-3, 8**)

1. From before the time of Goliath, David learned from his father. (**1 Sam 17:34-37**)

2. The men who surrounded David were completely out of place in Israel. Saul and the army of Israel were seeking to kill David and his men.

3. Our God works powerfully by the example of others, both in our lives and in the written accounts of men and women of faith.

B. Who is your “hero?” Consider what David’s mighty men became like.

C. They had a strong faith that caused them to be courageous.

1. Eleazar attacked when others were fearful. His sword stuck to his hand after the battle! His courage won the entire battle for the Lord. (**2 Sam 23:9-10**)

2. Shammah stood in a field when other fled. (**2 Sam 23:11-12**)

D. They understood the meaning of love and loyalty.

1. Genuine love does not wait on commands. (**2 Sam 23:13-17**)

2. This was a very difficult time in David’s life. No doubt he looked back to his youth and remembered “the way things were.”

3. David understood the mighty gift that was given him and thus offered it to God.

4. May each of us as fathers understand the power of our example!

### ***IV. Leaders are listeners***

A. How can one lead if he is only interested in himself?

1. David was kept from a foolish action by Abigail. (**1 Sam 25:28-32**)

2. How many Nabal’s are there today?

3. It is not strength to take advantage of others and be stubborn.

B. Leaders want the truth even if it is “negative” (**1 Kings 22:8, 17**)

1. One of the best examples you can set for your children is how you react when you were clearly wrong.

2. A careful listening to and reverence for God’s word is crucial.

3. Once an elder’s wife would bring her classes test papers to the assembly and grade them! What do your children see in you during an assembly?

### ***V. Leaders are not afraid of suffering***

A. Can you picture Jesus coming before the mob and willingly give Himself for me and you? (Jn 18:4-8)

1. He was constantly thinking of others.

2. He even reached out to those who crucified Him. (**Lk 23:34**)

B. We must step up and be counted in our homes!

**Conclusion:** Are you a head or a figure-head?