



Leadership priorities

11th February 2009

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"I appreciate what you've done for science ...
now drop the bonus request, or I'll swat you."

Vital Signs
of a healthy church
A new teaching series
in January 2009

Who's in charge?

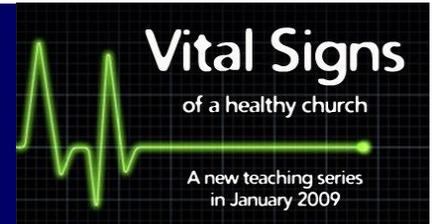
- Romans 6:16 “Don’t you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?”
- Galatians 6:8 “The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.”

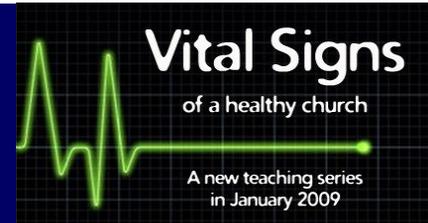
What's the outcome?

- Galatians 5:19-21 “The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like.”
- Galatians 5:22-23 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”

Ensuring God's the leader

- spend time with him
- steep in his word
- accept his discipline



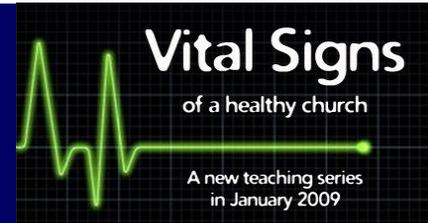


● Spend time with him

- Luke 6:12 “One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God”.

● Steep in his word

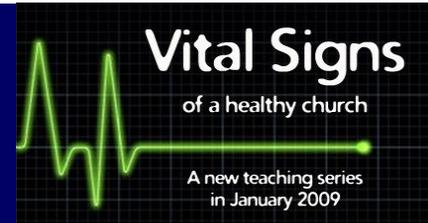
- Psalm 1 “Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither.”
- Psalm 48 “Within your temple, O God, we meditate on your unfailing love.”
- Psalm 119:20 “Do good to your servant, and I will live; I will obey your word. Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.”



● Accept God's discipline

- Hebrews 12:9-11 “ Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness.”
- 1 John 3:24 “Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.”
- Galatians 5:25 “Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.”

Attitudes to church leadership



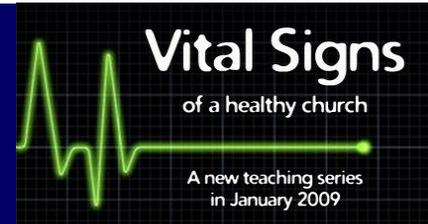
- Hebrews 13:17 “Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.”
- Acts 6:2-4 “So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, “It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.”

Attitudes of church leadership



- Matthew 20:25-28. “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”
- 1 Timothy 3:2-3 “above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money”.
- 2 Timothy 2:2 “And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.”

Effects on our everyday lives



● Father and the family

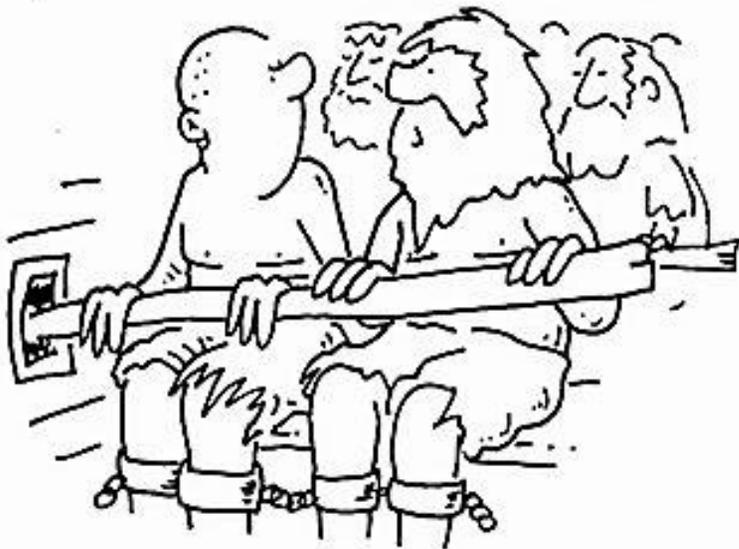
- Colossians 3:18-21 “Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.”



● Caution - slave at work

- Colossians 3:22 "Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win their favour, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."

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"Well I'd prefer short term contracts."

● Down with the guvermint?

- Romans 13:1-2 “Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.”

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- Giving up control is hard.....

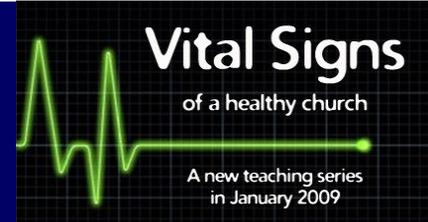
- Hebrews 3:7 “So, as the Holy Spirit says:” Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the desert”
- Hosea 9:17 “My God will reject them because they have not obeyed him; they will be wanderers among the nations.”

-but a friend can help.....

- Ephesians 6:16 “In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.”

-and Jesus is our model

Jesus' leadership priorities



- Luke 22:41-42 “He withdrew about a stone’s throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.””.
- Hebrews 5:8-9 “Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him”

What about us?

