

The Five Characteristics of Biblical Leadership

A Biblical Leader is characterized by G.R.A.C.E.

Grounded in God

Related to God

Attuned to God

Compassionate toward others

Energized about educating others

1. Grounded in God

Biblical Leaders effectively lead others by first being led. The best (if not only) way to foster obedience in others is to lead by example. Jesus never made a major move in his ministry without first consulting his Father in heaven. Your goal as a leader is not to gain followers who will walk behind you, but to gain followers of Christ who will walk with you.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure. (Philippians 2:12-13)

2. Related to God

Biblical Leaders effectively lead others by showing that they have a meaningful relationship with God. Jesus stayed connected to God by spending long periods of time in prayer. The best way to grow in your relationship with God is to spend time with him. Personal, private prayer is the best way to develop true intimacy with God.

If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. (2 Chronicles 7:14)

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

(Philippians 4:6-7)

3. Attuned to God

Biblical Leaders are people of faith. One definition of faith is choosing to believe in God even when you don't feel like it. Anyone can express belief in God when things are going well; it is an act of faith to believe, and believe in God, in the midst of a crisis.

Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love. (1 Corinthians 16:13-14)

4. Compassionate toward others

Biblical Leaders demonstrate compassion by caring for those they lead in times of need, but also by lovingly confronting when appropriate and necessary.

But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love. (Ephesians 4:15-16)

5. Energized about educating others

Biblical Leaders show their enthusiasm for leading by being prepared to lead.

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15)