

term goals. And he knows how to attract people to his vision. Men and women with vision are positive men and women and the masses will follow them.

People are always attracted to something that is moving, dynamic, and full of life. A church, a program, or a cause that is going somewhere and a leadership that knows where it is going will always attract people. The church today needs leaders who are mature, strong willed, with clear visions, leaders who are not afraid to be different, who will lead the people out of complacency and mediocrity. The Lay must assume the responsibility of leading God's people out of doubts, fears and misgivings, and lead them into the presence of God's sunlight.

- c. **A Leader Has Courage.** It is impossible to be a good leader without being courageous. To fill a place of leadership you must have definite conviction and the courage to live by them. When God called Joshua to succeed Moses as leader of Israel, He repeatedly told Joshua, "Be strong and of good courage", *Joshua 1: 6-9*. The disciples, before taking a leadership role in their villages, they all ran away in the Garden of Gethsemane. Peter denied the Lord, and after the crucifixion and burial of Jesus, they were all hiding behind closed doors. But when the Holy Spirit came upon them, and filled their hearts, they became bold, preaching what they have heard and seen. They became courageous leaders through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit
- d. **A Leader Has Wisdom.** Jesus told His disciples to be "wise as serpents, and as harmless as doves". *Matt. 10: 16*. He also promised, "if any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally". *James 1: 5*. It is important that leaders have and use wisdom in dealing with people. Wisdom to organize, wisdom to enlist others for service, wisdom to assign responsibilities, wisdom to be patient and be of encouragement to other. Leaders pray constantly for those who have

authority and responsibility over the church as well as throughout all society.

- e. **A Leader Has Character.** Character is that "composite of good moral qualities, moral excellence and firmness blended with resolution, self discipline, high ethics, force and judgment. Christian character is the possession and manifestation of God's graces. love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance..

Lay leaders must guard against those things that will destroy their ministry and their character. Things such as love for money, love of applause, familiarity with the opposite sex, discouragement, and pride. Pride is a heart problem, not easily seen. But many of the problems in leaders and non-leaders, are rooted in pride. Pride of position, pride of person, pride of accomplishments. *Proverbs 16:10* gives us a solemn warning: "Pride goeth before destruction"

Qualified and dedicated Lay leaders are essential to the success of any church. You are the basic in the growth of the church. No church will ever be larger, more efficient, or more spiritual than it leaders. Finding dedicated volunteers who are consecrated, Spirit-filled, and trained to do the work that needs to be accomplished is difficult, and not an easy task. but it must be done.

So stand in the truth that you are under grace. Daily present your body to God as a temple of righteousness. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you with your weaknesses. Receive the witness of the Holy Spirit that you are His child. Be persuaded that nothing can separate you from the love of God. Trust in God's Word, Live by the Spirit. Receive Jesus as Lord and Savior. Let grace reign in your life through godly living. Stand in grace, rejoice in hope. Be thankful in tribulation, knowing that it leads to perseverance, character and hope.

Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness



The Lay Organization Training Sessions Frank In graham Director, Lay Activities

The Lay Organization

Lay People Working With God



