

"FOLLOW THE LEADER!"

I Corinthians 11:1 – Imitate me, as I also imitate Christ.



In Paul's first Epistle to the church at Corinth, he encourages the Corinthians to practice his life model since he is imitating Jesus, whom he met personally. His emphasis is on following Christ's example. Paul is commanding – not suggesting – that believers imitate God in how they treat one another. This also holds true for Christian Leaders today. Never step out on your own without consulting the will of God. Proverbs 3:5-6 says, ⁵ "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths." This also means to be very careful how you treat those you pass on your way up, because one day you just may pass those same people on your way down.

It is quite evident that many Christian Leaders in the 21st Century have lost sight of who they are following and what the primary goal is for their Leadership. The vast temptation of money, power, prestige, drugs and yes, even sex has swept through the church like a rushing mighty wind and has slowly taken down our great Leaders of the day one after another! Saints, if there ever was a time, that we, the people of God need to pray, it is NOW! Furthermore, with the great information highway and all of the new social media networks that Society has easy access to, any indiscretions are launched on the airwaves and are sweeping the nation in a matter of minutes – Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Pinterest, MySpace, and Google Plus, just to name a few. Sadly, there are also websites that are designed specifically to publically flog our Christian Leaders. Why is it so easy for us to spread gossip, but when it comes to spreading the Gospel, we are too shy to talk to other people? The bible says in Matthew 10:33, "But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven." The world is watching and noticing that our talk does not match our walk! Christ is coming back after a church without a spot or a wrinkle. And when He does, judgment will begin at the house of the Lord and will begin with our Leaders!

When a Christian Leader acquires and accumulates life's pleasures at the expense of his/her congregants, it is a serious problem and can only lead to a shameful demise. The Shepherd is to lead and guide the sheep NOT prey on the innocence of the sheep! When the Shepherd deliberately leads the sheep to the slaughter, their innocent blood will be on his/her hands. You do know God is holding every Leader accountable? I assure you, I'm not hatin' -- live in a nice neighborhood, drive a nice automobile, rock your fabulous wardrobe if that's what you choose but be careful how you get it. All money is not good money! I was taught that when God blesses you, you are to be a blessing to others. Stop hogging the blessings and reaching for even more solely for your personal benefit! Mark 8:36 clearly reminds us, "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Remember, all that we possess on this earth is only temporal. The thief comes to steal it, time will destroy it and death will separate you from it. Build your hopes on things eternal.

I strongly urge all Christian Leaders to always obtain your marching orders exclusively from the Word of God! Never lose sight of the fact that it is God's plan; not yours! Don't get caught up in the hype! It is God's purpose; not yours! It is God's people; not yours! And it is for God's pleasure; not yours! Let me remind you... it's not about you; it's all about God! Every move that you make and every step that you take ought to be orchestrated by God. He is always in total control of every situation, every circumstance and every opposition! Stop telling your people, "Do as I say and not as I do." Instead strive to lead by example. Christ already left the perfect model for Leadership. All you have to do is get in His word, stay in His word, and live by His word! I guarantee you won't go wrong! When the Christian Leader purposely and intentionally follows the model that Christ left, then those who come along side of that Leader and follow after that Leader are guaranteed to GROW and GO as they are all imitating Christ! Don't forget to "Follow the Leader!"

BBlessed!