I Will Build My Church Part 6: The Church and Leadership Acts 6:1-7

The authority by which the Christian leader leads is not power but love, not force but example, not coercion but reasoned persuasion. Leaders have power, but power is safe only in the hands of those who humble themselves to serve.

-John Stott

I. The Problem

II. The Priority

III. The Process

Into the Bible:

1. The model Christ sets for his disciples and calls them to follow is that of a servant leader. (Mark 10:42-45) What is the preeminent characteristic of this type of leadership? (1 Peter 5:1-3, Romans 112:3, Philippians 2:3)

2. When the apostles ask the growing Church to find them helpers to aid in the distributing of food it was not because they thought it beneath them. What were the priorities that they set as the reason? (Acts 6:3, 1 Corinthians 2:4-5, 2 Timothy 4:2, Colossians 4:2, 1 Thessalonians 5:16) Why should these characterize the leaders in the Church?

Application:

3. Obviously, from the biblical record, the deacons chosen by the early church were not just good at waiting on tables. Two of them, Stephen and Phillip, are major figures in the next couple of chapters in Acts. They, along with the apostles are doing signs and wonders in the power of the Spirit. (Acts 6:8) What characteristics do they exhibit in their ministry that should characterize each of us as we exercise our gifts on behalf of Christ for the benefit of the Church? (Acts 7, Acts 8:26-40)

For Families:

4. Talk with your children about what godly leadership means to our church.