

WHEN THERE IS NO LEADER

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DEFINITION

1. A leader is appointed to give direction.
 2. A leader is a guide.
 3. A leader's duty is to influence and lead a people to fulfill a certain task or purpose.
 4. A leader brings order and makes sure everybody is doing what he or she is supposed to be doing.
 5. A leader is a supervisor, who oversees what his people are doing with the aim of making sure they are doing the right thing at the right time.
 6. A leader is a peace-keeper.
- In the church, God is the one that appoints the leader – It is not by self-appointment.
 - The effectiveness of each leader depends on his deep spiritual convictions and level of commitment to his assignment.

WHEN THERE IS NO DEFINED LEADER

Numbers 13

13:1 The LORD said to Moses, 2 "Send some men to explore the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites. From each ancestral tribe send one of its leaders."

3 So at the LORD's command Moses sent them out from the Desert of Paran. All of them were leaders of the Israelites. 4 These are their names:

from the tribe of Reuben, Shammua son of Zaccur; 5 from the tribe of Simeon, Shaphat son of Hori; 6 from the tribe of Judah, Caleb son of Jephunneh; 7 from the tribe of Issachar, Igal son of Joseph; 8 from the tribe of Ephraim, Hoshea son of Nun; 9 from the tribe of Benjamin, Palti son of Raphu; 10 from the tribe of Zebulun, Gaddiel son of Sodi; 11 from the tribe of Manasseh (a tribe of Joseph), Gaddi son of Susi; 12 from the tribe of Dan, Ammiel son of Gemalli; 13 from the tribe of Asher, Sethur son of Michael; 14 from the tribe of Naphtali, Nahbi son of Vophsi; 15 from the tribe of Gad, Geuel son of Maki.

16 These are the names of the men Moses sent to explore the land. (Moses gave Hoshea son of Nun the name Joshua.)

17 When Moses sent them to explore Canaan, he said, "Go up through the Negev and on into the hill country. 18 See what the land is like and whether the people who live there are strong or weak, few or many. 19 What kind of land do they live in? Is it good or bad? What kind of towns do they live in? Are they unwalled or fortified? 20 How is the soil? Is it fertile or poor? Are there trees on it or not? Do your best to bring back some of the fruit of the land." (It was the season for the first ripe grapes.)

21 So they went up and explored the land from the Desert of Zin as far as Rehob, toward Lebo Hamath. 22 They went up through the Negev and came to Hebron, where Ahiman, Sheshai and Talmai, the descendants of Anak, lived. (Hebron had been built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.) 23 When they reached the Valley of Eshcol, they cut off a branch bearing a single cluster of grapes. Two of them carried it on a pole between them, along with some pomegranates and

figs. 24 That place was called the Valley of Eshcol because of the cluster of grapes the Israelites cut off there. 25 At the end of forty days they returned from exploring the land.

26 They came back to Moses and Aaron and the whole Israelite community at Kadesh in the Desert of Paran. There they reported to them and to the whole assembly and showed them the fruit of the land. 27 They gave Moses this account: "We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. 28 But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there. 29 The Amalekites live in the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan."

30 Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, "We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it."

31 But the men who had gone up with him said, "We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are." 32 And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, "The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. 33 We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them."

NIV

Numbers 14

14:1 That night all the people of the community raised their voices and wept aloud. 2 All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, "If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this desert! 3 Why is the LORD bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?" 4 And they said to each other, "We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt."

5 Then Moses and Aaron fell face down in front of the whole Israelite assembly gathered there. 6 Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had explored the land, tore their clothes 7 and said to the entire Israelite assembly, "The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. 8 If the LORD is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us. 9 Only do not rebel against the LORD. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will swallow them up. Their protection is gone, but the LORD is with us. Do not be afraid of them."

10 But the whole assembly talked about stoning them. Then the glory of the LORD appeared at the Tent of Meeting to all the Israelites. 11 The LORD said to Moses, "How long will these people treat me with contempt? How long will they refuse to believe in me, in spite of all the miraculous signs I have performed among them? 12 I will strike them down with a plague and destroy them, but I will make you into a nation greater and stronger than they."

13 Moses said to the LORD, "Then the Egyptians will hear about it! By your power you brought these people up from among them. 14 And they will tell the inhabitants of this land about it. They have already heard that you, O LORD, are with these people and that you, O LORD, have been seen face to face, that your cloud stays over them, and that you go before them in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. 15 If you put these people to death all at one time, the nations who have heard this report about you will say, 16 'The LORD was not able to bring these people into the land he promised them on oath; so he slaughtered them in the desert.'

17 "Now may the Lord's strength be displayed, just as you have declared: 18 'The LORD is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation.' 19 In accordance with your great love, forgive the sin of these people, just as you have pardoned them from the time they left Egypt until now."

20 The LORD replied, "I have forgiven them, as you asked. 21 Nevertheless, as surely as I live and as surely as the glory of the LORD fills the whole earth, 22 not one of the men who saw my glory and the miraculous signs I performed in Egypt and in the desert but who disobeyed me and tested me ten times-- 23 not one of them will ever see the land I promised on oath to their forefathers. No one who has treated me with contempt will ever see it. 24 But because my servant Caleb has a different spirit and follows me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land he went to, and his descendants will inherit it. 25 Since the Amalekites and Canaanites are living in the valleys, turn back tomorrow and set out toward the desert along the route to the Red Sea."

26 The LORD said to Moses and Aaron: 27 "How long will this wicked community grumble against me? I have heard the complaints of these grumbling Israelites. 28 So tell them, 'As surely as I live, declares the LORD, I will do to you the very things I heard you say: 29 In this desert your bodies will fall--every one of you twenty years old or more who was counted in the census and who has grumbled against me. 30 Not one of you will enter the land I swore with uplifted hand to make your home, except Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun. 31 As for your children that you said would be taken as plunder, I will bring them in to enjoy the land you have rejected. 32 But you--your bodies will fall in this desert. 33 Your children will be shepherds here for forty years, suffering for your unfaithfulness, until the last of your bodies lies in the desert. 34 For forty years--one year for each of the forty days you explored the land--you will suffer for your sins and know what it is like to have me against you.' 35 I, the LORD, have spoken, and I will surely do these things to this whole wicked community, which has banded together against me. They will meet their end in this desert; here they will die."

36 So the men Moses had sent to explore the land, who returned and made the whole community grumble against him by spreading a bad report about it-- 37 these men responsible for spreading the bad report about the land were struck down and died of a plague before the LORD. 38 Of the men who went to explore the land, only Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh survived. 39 When Moses reported this to all the Israelites, they mourned bitterly. 40 Early the next morning they went up toward the high hill country. "We have sinned," they said. "We will go up to the place the LORD promised."

41 But Moses said, "Why are you disobeying the LORD's command? This will not succeed! 42 Do not go up, because the LORD is not with you. You will be defeated by your enemies, 43 for the Amalekites and Canaanites will face you there. Because you have turned away from the LORD, he will not be with you and you will fall by the sword."

44 Nevertheless, in their presumption they went up toward the high hill country, though neither Moses nor the ark of the LORD's covenant moved from the camp. 45 Then the Amalekites and Canaanites who lived in that hill country came down and attacked them and beat them down all the way to Hormah.

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1. The records did not tell us who was appointed leader of the twelve man spy team; though it is assumed that Joshua was the leader. The only thing spoken about Joshua

was the new name Moses called him. He was originally called Hoshea. Joshua means the LORD will save. So one cannot say in clear terms exactly who the leader is.

2. Everybody was like a leader in their own right.
3. The report ought to be given by the leader. If we assume Joshua was the leader, then he ought to have given the report to Moses and the Israelites. He didn't even speak until the rebellion based on the evil report started. Caleb was the main speaker of the positive two.
4. If there was a leader, the report and consequences of the report wouldn't have been what it was.
5. The result was a mass rebellion. Which led to:
 - a. A plague from the LORD which killed the men that brought the bad report.
 - b. All those who are from 20years and above counted in the census conducted earlier will not enter the land - All of them that saw the miraculous display of God's power in Egypt shall not enter the Promised Land.
 - c. They had to wonder in the desert for forty years. For each day spent spying the land, they had to spend a year wondering in the desert. In all they had to spend forty years. Within this period, all the people God said will not enter will die.
 - d. Israel suffered defeat in the hands of the inhabitants of the land when they changed their minds and attempted to fight for the land after God has passed sentence on them.

All these would not have happened if there was a defined leader and the leader was allowed to do his job and give the right report.

Judg 17:6

6 In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

NKJV

Judg 21:25

25 In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

NKJV

1. When there is a king, the people are made to obey the law and do the right thing at the right time.
2. When there is no king (leader), everybody does what he likes. The result is that idle worship, witchcraft and all sorts of evil reign in the land.
3. The nation experiences set back.
4. Another nation conquers them and makes slaves of them.

VALUE LEADERSHIP

1. Understand that leadership is not to lord it over you or make a slave or prisoner of you.
2. Understand that the fact that you are not the leader does not mean you are a second class person or relegated to the background.
3. Understand that leadership is for order, accountability, pursuit and fulfillment of purpose.

4. Leadership is service and hard work.

Matt 23:11

11 But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant.

NKJV

Mark 9:33-37

33 Then He came to Capernaum. And when He was in the house He asked them, "What was it you disputed among yourselves on the road?" 34 But they kept silent, for on the road they had disputed among themselves who would be the greatest. 35 And He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all." 36 Then He took a little child and set him in the midst of them. And when He had taken him in His arms, He said to them, 37 Whoever receives one of these little children in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me, receives not Me but Him who sent Me."

NKJV

The main purpose of leadership is not to honor, but a call to service.

5. Leadership is God ordained way of getting things done properly.
6. Without leadership, there will be confusion.
 - Think of a nation with many presidents at the same time or without a president.
 - Think of an army with many Commanders in Chiefs at the same time or without a commander.
 - Think of a ship piloted by many Captains at the same time or without a captain.
 - Think of a family without a head.
 - Think of a Church without a Pastor or Chief Pastor.

Definitely confusion will always reign when there is no defined leadership in place. And when there is confusion, the devils have opportunity to afflict and oppress the people. That is why rebellion provokes judgment. Be careful to submit to your leader at all times in all things as long as it is not contrary to God's will.

SUBMIT TO LEADERSHIP

1. Submit to whoever is your leader in the Church, home, school, office, organization or nation.
2. Submit to your husband.

Eph 5:22

22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

NKJV

3. Submit to your parents.

Eph 6:1-4

6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: 3 "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."

NKJV

4. Submit to your Pastor.

Heb 13:17

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.

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5. Submit to the Holy Spirit as your Lord and guide.

Rom 8:14

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

KJV

- To submit is to put under the control of.
- To submit is to yield.
- To submit is to surrender.
- To submit is to offer yourself willingly to following, obeying and working with your leader.
- To submit is to have respect for your leader, his vision, instructions, teachings, counsel, rebuke, correction and direction.

2 Tim 3:16-17

16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

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- You can't follow the one you have no respect for.
- You can't follow the one you do not believe in.

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Jesus declared that he is the good shepherd to assure his audience that he is not going to mislead them or exploit them. This is so, because people are too scared of being misled. God will not mislead you.

John 10:9-17

10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. 13 The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

14 "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me- 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father-and I lay down my life for the sheep. 16 I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. 17 The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life-only to take it up again.

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The Ministers of the gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ are Shepherds sent be Jesus himself to represent him. They should be received, believed in and submitted to.

Matt 10:40

40 "He who receives you receives me, and he who receives me receives the one who sent me.

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To submit to them is to submit to Jesus and the Father who sent Jesus.

PROOF OF SUBMISSION

- 1.** Application of the teachings and principles of God being taught you by your leaders.
- 2.** Responding to their call to gather for a meeting.
- 3.** Attending meetings they put up to bless you.
- 4.** Going through with delight every program of training prescribed by your leaders.
- 5.** Using your talent and resources to support and actualize the vision and projects of your leader.
- 6.** Speaking good of your leaders.
- 7.** Praying for them with love.
- 8.** Give for their upkeep.

CONCLUSION

It is important that you respond lovingly to leadership. Don't be scared of, or resist leadership. It will not be in your best interest to resist your leaders. Those who have resisted leadership in the past have always regretted their actions – They were dealt with by God.

Make the job of your leaders easy by submitting to them and working with them with a heart of love. Wives, submit to your husbands. Children, submit in obedience to your parents. Where ever you are, respect and submit to your leader in the Lord – As long as what they are asking you to do does not contradict God's laws, obey them with joy.