LEADING BY EXAMPLE

I. **A SPIRITUAL LAW**: LEADERSHIP IS TO LEAD BY EXAMPLE
   A. Jesus only expects us to follow Him because He first lived an example that we are to follow
      1. 1 Peter 2:21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, **leaving us an example**, that you should follow His steps: NKJV
   B. As leaders in the Kingdom of God, we have the same requirements:
      1. Luke 12:48 For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more. NKJV
         a. more is to be expected of & more will be asked of leaders
   C. See John Maxwell: **STAIRS OF LEADERSHIP**
      1. The **first “step”** is the lowest level of leadership
         a. because people only follow due to the title / position we hold
      2. Our commitment and example will determine to what degree people will follow our leadership:
         a. If our commitment and example is poor, people will not follow us beyond the first “step” on the ladder of leadership:
            (A) **THIS WILL EVENTUALLY CAUSE A LACK OF:**
            LOYALTY, INTEREST, AND COMMITMENT IN THE LIVES OF THOSE WHO FOLLOW US

II. **HOW TO LEAD BY EXAMPLE**:
   A. 1 Tim 4:12 Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. NKJV
      1. In order for no one to “despise” or “look down on” (NIV trans) Timothy’s leadership, there were requirements on his part:
         a. **“BE AN EXAMPLE TO THE BELIEVER”**
      2. No one is expected nor required to honor or follow us, regardless of the title, or position in ministry we may hold:
         a. unless we first: **LEAD BY EXAMPLE**
            b. 1 Thess 5:12 And we beseech you, brethren, to **know** them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;
               (1) **Def KNOW**: to look upon, to consider, watching from a distance
B. SIX AREAS OF THE LIFE OF A LEADER BY WHICH THEY ARE TO LEAD BY EXAMPLE: (1 Tim 4:12)

1. WORD / SPEECH
   a. Eph 4:29  Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

2. CONDUCT / LIFE STYLE
   a. 1 John 2:6  He who says he abides in Him (JESUS) ought himself also to walk just as He walked.
   b. 1 Cor 11:1 Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ. NIV

3. LOVE
   a. John 15:12 This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.
      13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

4. SPIRIT (what is our spiritual condition.....and attitude)
   a. Amp Trans Eph 4:23 [having a fresh mental and spiritual attitude],
   b. Rom 12:11 not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;

5. FAITH
   a. 2 Cor 5:7  For we walk by faith, not by sight.
   b. Rom 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?
      Rom 8:37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

6. PURITY (Def. holiness)
   a. 1 Peter 1:16 because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."
   b. 2 Tim 2:19 "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

C. Phil 4:9 The things which you learned and received and heard and saw IN ME, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.
1. Paul did not say: do what I say.....obey my teachings
2. Paul led by example and he told his disciples that the things they learned and received:
   a. “HEARD”: as he taught the word of God
   b. “SAW IN ME”: as he lived what he taught
   (1) “these things do”
D. 1 Peter 5:3 nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock;
1. Def “lords”: exercise dominion over, subjugate, control
2. Def “examples” style, resemblance, sampler, model, pattern

E. 2 Thess 3:9 not because we do not have authority, but to make ourselves an example of how you should follow us.
1. Def “example”: style, resemblance, sampler, model, pattern
   a. In Paul’s leadership style he put more emphasis on example than he did authority
      (1) this style of leadership did not reduce his realm of authority, rather: it enhanced his spiritual authority….because his life empowered his words

F. Phil 3:17 Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who So walk, as you have us for a pattern.
1. Def “example”: style, resemblance, sampler, model, pattern
2. Def “pattern”: example, model
   a. Paul literally states that his life was a model, pattern, example for others to follow…..as should ours

III. Christians have mistakenly believed that Gifts of the Spirit, Anointing, Positions / Titles:
A. qualify them to be followed or qualify them for leadership & ministry:
   1. If you study the scriptures and look at the qualifications for leadership in: Acts 6:3, 1 Tim 3:1-13, Titus 1:6-9
      a. it does not mention the words: ANOINTING or SPIRITUAL GIFTS
         (1) The reason why spiritual gifts and anointing do not qualify us for Leadership is due to the fact that:
            (a) EVERY BORN AGAIN, SPIRIT FILLED BELIEVER HAS BOTH
               (1) 1 John 2:20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One,
               (2) 1 John 2:27 But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you,”
               (3) 1 Cor 12:7 But the manifestation (spiritual gifts) of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:
                  8 for to one is given
            (1) It is not our anointing our gifts that qualifies us for leadership,
               Rather: IT IS THE LIFE WE LIVE THAT QUALIFIES US FOR LEADERSHIP