

In recent months I have been thinking about leaders and ways to evaluate them. Here are some insights that have come to me as I have pondered the various leaders on the scene today. This will be a general overview of the three main components: character, capability and cause. In upcoming messages we will give some examples. We will also look at some heroes and villains from the Bible. Satan attacks leaders, for they are persons of influence. Why is America under so much attack? It is a leader nation in the world.

CHARACTER This area concerns their nature and principles which include degrees of honesty, faithfulness, transparency, humility, teachableness and servanthood etc. Here are some types of character which are on display.

- Clueless - They are biased due to ignorance of the true facts and realities
- Careless - They get distracted by secondary items and forget the main issues
- Compliant - They may know the truth but they prefer to go along to get along. They prefer power, position and popularity above principles
- Cowards - They live by fear of people and challenging circumstances
- Compromised - This is a big issue among most politicians. They are swayed by money, blackmail or bribes. Are they a puppet or a leader?
- Corrupt - These are the truly wicked ones who seek to profit from their position and could care less about those they are meant to serve. They belong to the 'I've got mine club' and could give a damn about the rest of us.
- Courageous - These are the rare ones who stand for what is right, regardless of how it may affect their safety, security, finances and reputation.

Many of the signers of the Declaration of Independence suffered greatly when they revolted against King George and England. They lost their property and some even lost their lives. God has such leaders in every generation.

CAPABILITY One may have good character qualities but not be qualified for the job. It bewilders me that people can run for the office of the Chief Executive of the USA and have no executive experience or a terrible track record. Such leaders must first exhibit wisdom, resourcefulness and decisiveness. I have said for years that newspapers and other media outlets should have to display the resumes of the candidates. We the people have a right to screen their education records, health records, job experience etc. It is not enough to listen to candidates verbal promises. We should be able to hear from those who worked with them or for them. We should know about the people that shaped their views of government, economics, education etc.; such as teachers, colleagues, mentors and authors. There should be a limit on the amount of money spent on political campaigns and a more limited time frame. However, so typical of America, it seems to be all about the money and excessive drama. As an older friend from Toronto used to say to me. 'How is everything in the Excited States'?

CAUSE Even if a person has a decent character and capability, it is for nought if they stand for an unworthy cause. Normally a person with a bad cause also has a flawed character. Karl Marx was a lazy grifter who treated his family terribly. Much of the cultural chaos and human oppression today stems from his philosophy. On the other hand, the person who has influenced the world for good more than any other is **Jesus Christ**. His character is impeccable. Satan had no hold on him - John 14:30 and no sin was ever found in Him. His capability is awesome. No man ever did what he did. His cause is supreme. It is to institute the kingdom of God to the glory of the Father. He is a leader we can admire, trust and follow!