What would you say are **qualities of a good leader**, and someone who exemplifies that quality?

When I was in Hight School I did one year of Air Force Junior ROTC. We memorized something called ***Schofield’s definition of discipline***. The more I think about it, the more I like it. It says this, “The discipline which makes the soldiers of a free country reliable in battle is not to be gained by harsh or tyrannical treatment. On the contrary, such treatment is far more likely to destroy than to make an army. It is possible to impart instruction and give commands in such a manner and such a tone of voice as to inspire in the soldier no feeling but an intense desire to obey, while the opposite manner and tone of voice cannot fail to excite strong resentment and a desire to disobey.

The one mode or the other in dealing with subordinates springs from a corresponding spirit in the breast of the commander. He who feels the respect which is due to others cannot fail to inspire in them respect for himself; while he who feels, and hence manifests, disrespect toward others, especially his subordinates, cannot fail to inspire hatred against himself. (LTG John M. Schofield, 1879).

This is not the same person who created the Scofield reference Bible. General Schofield graduated from West Point and went on to a notable military career, serving with distinction throughout the Civil War. He ultimately became the commanding general of the entire US Army.

Leadership is ***CRITICAL***. This true for the military, for nations, for business and even for the church. Have you ever thought about leaders in the Bible? There are a BUNCH of them. Almost everyone ***rose*** to become a leader.

* **Moses** went from herding sheep in the backside of nowhere to leading an ornery herd to the promised land.
* **David** went from being a shepherd to a servant of Saul to the

scion of Israel.

* **Joseph**, we talked him last week, wen from the pit to the palace to the prison and back to the palace.
* **Peter** went from fisherman to disciple to the leader of the gang.
* **Nehemiah** went from serving the king to rebuilding Jerusalem.

This morning’s Sunday School lesson dovetails beautifully with our passage. The lesson from 1 Peter 5 focuses on the leadership of pastors. Peter calls for all believers to clothe themselves with humility, especially in their interaction with one another. Petr also calls for submission under the mighty hand of God, so that the Lord may reward them at the proper time. Looks like Peter and Paul may have had the same seminary professor. But they did; they were taught by the Spirit.

In our text, Paul is still giving the church instructions for living out the Christian life. The Christian life is the Spirit-Life. Look at Eph 5.18 . . . Then Paul uses four participial phrases to describe in practical terms what a Spirit-filled life will include. These are “*speaking*” (19), “*singing and making music*” (19), “*giving thanks*” (20) and “*submitting to one anothe*r” (20).

Everything in Ephesians 5.22 through 6.9 flows out of this. **Mutual submission**, made possible by **the-indwelling-Holy-Spirit** facilitates carrying out these six sets of instructions. Paul speaks to wives and husbands, children and parents and workers (slaves) and leaders (masters). Each set of instructions begins with a key-word. The key-word for those in-charge is “*treat the same way*” (6.9).

We will use for words as containers to hold our thoughts about this passage this morning. These word-boxes are : RECIPROCATE, REFRAIN, REALIZE and REMEMBER.

As we said last week, Paul doesn’t directly attack the institution of slavery. He does approach it VERY DIFFERENTLY than the world in which he lived. The impact of Christianity affects home-life AND work-life. A religion that is only on display at the church-house and not at my house is not worth having! Being saved affects EVERY area and EVERY aspect of our lives EVERY day!

**I.  RECIPROCATE**

 *Treat your slaves the same way*

What way? Go back to verse 7. “With a good attitude.” Have you ever had a supervisor with a bad attitude?

What if EVERY person in authority treated those they work with THE SAME WAY they want to be treated? Does that sound like a rule we have heard? Yes — the Golden Rule.

A supervisor becomes successful by making their people successful.

Remember that “*whatever good each one does, he will receive this back from the Lord*” (8) That is sowing and reaping, is it not? What is Charles Stanley’s teaching on the law of sowing?

* You reap WHAT you sow.
* You reap LATER than you sow and
* You Reap MORE than you sow.

Treat your people “the same way” — reciprocate.

**II.  REFRAIN**

 *Without threatening them*

You catch more flies with honey than with vinegar, right? I have always wondered, “WHO wants to catch flies??” I guess one catches them to get rid of them.

We should be somebody that others WANT to follow. If a leader has to drive folks, he isn’t leading, he’s herding. Herding isn’t a good thing with people.

Paul says “*leave off menacing*.” That would be my literal rendering of this phrase.

There are better motivators than threats. Refrain from threats.

**III.  REALIZE**

 *Because you know that both their Master and yours is in heaven*

Some folks forget that they aren’t God. They forget that THEY answer to somebody as well.

Every person who is in-charge, at ANY level has someone to answer to. THAT Someone is the Lord. This relates to practicing the lordship of Christ. The wife submits to her own husband “*as unto the Lord*” (Eph. 5:22), and the husband loves the wife “*as Christ also loved the church*” (Eph. 5:25). Children obey their parents “*in the Lord*” (Eph. 6:1), and parents raise their children “*in the nurture and admonition of the Lord*” (Eph. 6:4). Servants are obedient “*as unto Christ*” (Eph. 6:5), and masters treat their servants as their “*Master in heaven*” would have them do. Each person, in submission to the Lord, has no problems submitting to those over them.

 Back in the 80’s Bob Dylan got saved, supposedly. I trust that he did. He put out some Christian music, like so many entertainers who come to the Lord. Anyway, Dylan had a song called *Gonna Have to Serve Somebody*. It started out this way, “[You may be an ambassador to England or France. You may like to gamble, you might like to dance. You may be the heavyweight champion of the world. You may be a socialite with a long string of pearls](https://genius.com/8134893/Bob-dylan-gotta-serve-somebody/You-may-be-an-ambassador-to-england-or-france-you-may-like-to-gamble-you-might-like-to-dance-you-may-be-the-heavyweight-champion-of-the-world-you-may-be-a-socialite-with-a-long-string-of-pearls).

[Chorus]
But you’re going to have to serve somebody, yes indeed. You’re going to have to serve somebody. Well, it may be the devil or it may be the Lord, but you’re going to have to serve somebody.”

In this song, Dylan called out EVERYBODY, from preachers to potentates, business people to brick layers. He reminds us that we are **all** gonna have to answer to SOMEBODY.

Jesus said something about serving others, didn’t He?? He said, **“***For even the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many*” (Mark 10:45).

John writes, “*Jesus knew that the Father had given everything into his hands, that he had come from God, and that he was going back to God. 4 So he got up from supper, laid aside his outer clothing, took a towel, and tied it around himself. 5 Next, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet and to dry them with the towel tied around him. 6 He came to Simon Peter, who asked him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet? ” 7 Jesus answered him, “What I’m doing you don’t realize now, but afterward you will understand.” 8 “You will never wash my feet,” Peter said. Jesus replied, “If I don’t wash you, you have no part with me.” 9 Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not only my feet, but also my hands and my head*” (Jn 13:3-9).

 This passage also says, “*When Jesus had washed their feet and put on his outer clothing, he reclined again and said to them, “Do you know what I have done for you? 13 You call me Teacher and Lord ​— ​and you are speaking rightly, since that is what I am. 14 So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. 15 For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done for you*” (Jn 13:12-15).

The Bible tells us that, “*Jesus called them over and said to them, “You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those in high positions act as tyrants over them. 43 But it is not so among you. On the contrary, whoever wants to become great among you will be your servant, 44 and whoever wants to be first among you will be a slave to all. 45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many*” (Mark 10:42-45).

We have considered Reciprocate, Refrain and Realize. Now let’s look at our last word . . .

**IV. REMEMBER**

 *And there is no favoritism with Him*

This word for favoritism means, literally, “to receive a face.” The Lord doesn’t let someone come into His presence more than another. He doesn’t recognize one face and dis the next. He doesn’t play favorites.

Troy used to get to go places and Terri took exception, because she didn’t get to go places in a similar way, even though she was the elder sibling. When she asked her Dad about why Troy got to go do such and such and she didn’t, Jack Gray would say, “That’s because I like him more.” What can you say to THAT?!? That was a Jack Gray thing. Our heavenly Father doesn't like one of us more than the others.

He loves us all with a perfect love. He doesn’t play favorites. He loves us all equally, just not all the same. He does things best for each of us individually.

Those in-charge must make decisions based on the situation, not personalities, because that is right. Leaders do what is best and what is right, regardless.