

What GRACE is All About



GREAT CHURCHES DEVELOP GREAT LEADERS

October 7 & 8, 2023

Book Recommendation: *I Am a Church Member* by Thom S. Rainer

Hebrews 13:7 (NLT)

Remember your leaders who taught you the word of God. Think of all the good that has come from their lives, and follow the example of their faith.

Nehemiah 6:2-3 (NLT)

So Sanballat and Geshem sent a message asking me to meet them at one of the villages in the plain of Ono. But I realized they were plotting to harm me, so I replied by sending this message to them: "I am engaged in a great work, so I can't come down. Why should I stop working to come and meet with you?"

10 QUALITIES OF GREAT CHRISTIAN LEADERS:

1

Constantly cast vision.

Proverbs 29:18 (TPT)

When there is no clear prophetic vision, people quickly wander astray. But when you follow the revelation of the Word, heaven's bliss fills your soul.

Nehemiah 1:8-11 (NLT)

Please remember what you told your servant Moses: "If you are unfaithful to me, I will scatter you among the nations. But if you return to me and obey my commands and live by them, then even if you are exiled to the ends of the earth, I will bring you back to the place I have chosen for my name to be honored." The people you rescued by your great power and strong hand are your servants. O Lord, please hear my prayer! Listen to the prayers of those of us who delight in honoring you. Please grant me success today by making the king favorable today. Put it into his heart to be kind to me.

2

Intentionally build teams.

Nehemiah 2:12 (NLT)

I slipped out during the night, taking only a few others with me. I had not told anyone about the plans God had put in my heart for Jerusalem. We took no pack animals with us except the donkey I was riding.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (NLT)

Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. Likewise, two people lying close together can keep each other warm. But how can one be warm alone? A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.

3

Create a successful atmosphere and culture.

Nehemiah 2:17-18 (NLT)

But now I said to them, "You know very well what trouble we are in. Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire. Let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem and end this disgrace!" Then I told them about how the gracious hand of God had been on me, and about my conversation with the king. They replied at once, "Yes, let's rebuild the wall!" So they began the good work.

1 Corinthians 1:10 (NLT)

I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in harmony with each other. Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose.

4

Continually commit to being lifelong learners.

Nehemiah 2:16, 20a (NLT)

The city officials did not know I had been out there or what I was doing, for I had not yet said anything to anyone about my plans. I had not yet spoken to the Jewish leaders – the priests, the nobles, the officials, or anyone else in the administration ... I replied, "The God of heaven will help us succeed."

Proverbs 9:9 (NLT)

Instruct the wise, and they will be even wiser. Teach the righteous, and they will learn even more.

5

Set the example by being the first to lead the way.

Nehemiah 4:4-6 (NLT)

Then I prayed, "Hear us, our God, for we are being mocked. May their scoffing fall back on their own heads, and may they themselves become captives in a foreign land! Do not ignore their guilt. Do not blot out their sins, for they have provoked you to anger here in front of the builders." At last the wall was completed to half its height around the entire city, for the people had worked with enthusiasm.

6

Provide security and stability to everyone they know.

Nehemiah 4:18, 21-23 (NLT)

All the builders had a sword belted to their side. The trumpeter stayed with me to sound the alarm ... We worked early and late, from sunrise to sunset. And half the men were always on guard. I also told everyone living outside the walls to stay in Jerusalem. That way they and their servants could help with guard duty at night and work during the day. During this time, none of us—not I, nor my relatives, nor my servants, nor the guards who were with me—ever took off our clothes. We carried our weapons with us at all times, even when we went for water.

7

Generously share their time and resources.

Nehemiah 5:10-13 (NLT)

"I myself, as well as my brothers and my workers, have been lending the people money and grain, but now let us stop this business of charging interest. You must restore their fields, vineyards, olive groves, and homes to them this very day. And repay the interest you charged when you lent them money, grain, new wine, and olive oil." They replied, "We will give back everything and demand nothing more from the people. We will do as you say." Then I called the priests and made the nobles and officials swear to do what they had promised. I shook out the folds of my robe and said, "If you fail to keep your promise, may God shake you like this from your homes and from your property!" The whole assembly responded, "Amen," and they praised the Lord. And the people did as they had promised.

Nehemiah 5:17-19 (NLT)

I asked for nothing, even though I regularly fed 150 Jewish officials at my table, besides all the visitors from other lands! The provisions I paid for each day included one ox, six choice sheep or goats, and a large number of poultry. And every ten days we needed a large supply of all kinds of wine. Yet I refused to claim the governor's food allowance because the people already carried a heavy burden. Remember, O my God, all that I have done for these people, and bless me for it.

8

Duplicate themselves by raising up leaders just like them.

Nehemiah 7:1-2 (NLT)

After the wall was finished and I had set up the doors in the gates, the gatekeepers, singers, and Levites were appointed. I gave the responsibility of governing Jerusalem to my brother Hanani, along with Hananiah, the commander of the fortress, for he was a faithful man who feared God more than most.

Nehemiah 8:1 (NLT)

...all the people assembled with a unified purpose at the square just inside the Water Gate. They asked Ezra the scribe to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the Lord had given for Israel to obey.

9

Passionately care about building godly relationships.

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So on October 8 Ezra the priest brought the Book of the Law before the assembly, which included the men and women and all the children old enough to understand. He faced the square just inside the Water Gate from early morning until noon and read aloud to everyone who could understand. All the people listened closely to the Book of the Law.

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Bring hope to everyone and every situation.

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Ezra stood on the platform in full view of all the people. When they saw him open the book, they all rose to their feet. Then Ezra praised the Lord, the great God, and all the people chanted, "Amen! Amen!" as they lifted their hands. Then they bowed down and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground.

Hope will only come to those who trust God's Word and obey it.

HOW CAN I SUPPORT MY PASTORS AND CHURCH LEADERS?

1. Pray for them daily.

Hebrews 13:17-19 (TPT)

Obey your spiritual leaders and recognize their authority, for they keep watch over your soul without resting since they will have to give an account to God for their work. So it will benefit you when you make their work a pleasure and not a heavy burden. And keep praying for us that we continue to live with a clear conscience, for we desire to live honorably in all that we do. And I especially ask you to pray that God would send me back to you very soon.

2. Protect their integrity and character.

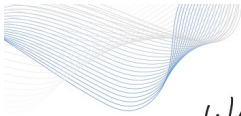
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Don't bad-mouth your leaders, not even under your breath, and don't abuse your leaders, even in the privacy of your home. Loose talk has a way of getting picked up and spread around. Little birds drop the crumbs of your gossip far and wide.

3. Partner with my Pastors, Elders, and Church Leadership to serve God and His Purposes.

Colossians 1:4-5 (TPT)

For we have heard of your devoted lives of faith in Christ Jesus and your tender love toward all his holy believers. Your faith and love rise within you as you access all the treasures of your inheritance stored up in the heavenly realm. For the revelation of the true gospel is as real today as the day you first heard of our glorious hope, now that you have believed in the truth of the gospel.



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