

MUSTARD SEED LEADERSHIP

PODCAST
- BY BRENT BRADING -



EP105

7 Most powerful characteristics of a leader: **MATURE**

7 Most powerful characteristics of a leader

(Notes are available to download. Encourage you to use this as a tool with your leadership team. Please consider sharing with other leaders to help them grow)

INTRODUCTION: These 7 Characteristics are a summary of the lessons I've learnt and the convictions I have come to over the past 30 years of leadership growth.

MATURE

Why did I choose to be mature?

Ephesians 4:14-15 (NIV)¹⁴ *Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming.*

¹⁵ *Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.*

Leaders should not be INFANTS

- This has nothing to do with age but MATURITY
- Infants are unstable, easily moved, easily offended and inconsistent.
- Maturity means able to deal with **conflict**, to be **consistent** and reflect **Christlike** character.

1 Corinthians 11:1 (NIV) "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ."

Leaders are called to set the example and standard for life and conduct.

- **A biblical church leader is called an 'elder' literally means one who is 'older' and by implication more mature.**
- **Maturity is essential for biblical leadership**

1 Timothy 3:1-7 (NIV)¹ *Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task.*² *Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,*³ *not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money.*⁴ *He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect.*⁵ *(If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?)*⁶ *He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil.*⁷ *He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.*

Note that this list is all about MATURE character:

- **Above reproach** - that means free from accusation

- **Faithful in marriage** - through good and bad times.
- **Temperate** - means even keeled, not given to emotional highs and lows
- **Self controlled** - means a leader doesn't lose their temper, not emotionally driven
- **Respectable** - shows courage and does the right thing
- **Hospitable** - welcoming spirit and welcoming home.
- **Able to teach** - has a handle on the truths of God's word and knows how to connect well with people.
- **Not given to drunkenness** - or any addiction for that matter
- **Not violent but gentle** - has a control on their temper and discovered the power of gentleness
- **Not quarrelsome** - doesn't have to be right in every argument
- **Not a lover of money** - not financially driven or materialistic
- **Manage his family well** - knows how to set boundaries, love unconditionally and manage his team
- **Not a recent convert** - has some christian life experience
- **Good reputation with outsiders** - what is their reputation in the workplace?

This is all about maturity of character. WHY? Because mature Christian character reflects Christ and influences others

ILLUST: Been involved in helping churches through many eldership conflicts and issues.

- It has never been deep theological divisions that cause problems.
- It is always basic character defects - IMMATURITY
- More problems arise from the WAY people deal with an issue than the original issue itself!

Leaders need to be mature - showing the fruit of growing up in the Lord.

QUESTIONS:

Take a look at these areas of maturity and use the questions to assess yourself:

1. **Character** - do people see Christ in your character? The fruit of the Holy Spirit at work in your life.
2. **Love** - does your life reflect a genuine desire to sacrifice and serve others?
3. **Gifting** - have you developed your spiritual gifts and talents?
4. **Leadership** - do you show emotional intelligence and leadership ability?
5. **Self control** - does your life reflect the maturity to say no to temporary pleasure in favor of long term gain?

CHALLENGE:

So much about leadership comes down to TRUST. Trust follows RESPECT and CONSISTENCY.

- **To live a life of respect and consistency requires maturity.**

For more notes visit:

<https://outlookchurch.co.za/mustardseedleadership>