

**Articles and Sermons :: True Leaders do not seek Dishonest Gain****True Leaders do not seek Dishonest Gain - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2015/4/4 17:51**

Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve. - 1 Peter 5:2

Leadership in the body of Christ is necessary and instituted by God. Without leadership in this world there would be no governments, law-makers, no leaders in homes, no leaders over young people to help them. In one word it would be anarchy or to follow a biblical phrase: "everyone doing what is right in their own eyes." The people of God went through a time in the book of Judges when that was happening and it never produced, obedience nor blessings for them. We are thankful for the laws of the land, dividers in roads and signs. These things are all there to help keep us safe, on course in our lives. In the body of Christ it is the same, God himself raises up leaders who will help shepherd the people of God. No person takes this responsibility on themselves but only God can truly call a person into this spiritual vocation.

There are many examples in church history where leadership in the Church went bad. People were fighting for position, seeking honour from men, even sadly buying positions in the church known as the sin of Simony. This happened with the Apostles when they were offered money to give the power of Apostleship (Acts 8). Saint Chrysostom, an early church Father said: "Nothing will divide the church so much as the love of Power and Positions." And it is so today that we must not seek after dishonest gain and positions in the church but serve as servants and humble children of God. True leaders lay down their lives for people and do not desire to hurt people to get ahead for their work or positions. We need true spiritual leaders that will be eager to serve and not divide the church with their carnal love of money and position. If someone greatly desires to be a bishop it would be ruin if he became one. Jesus in this earth never wanted to be exalted but always wanted to exalt his Father in heaven. May it be so with us today.