

## *Signs of Good Leadership*

### **Proverbs 16:10-19**

A good leader motivates, doesn't mislead, doesn't exploit.

God cares about honesty in the workplace; your business is his business.

Good leaders abhor wrongdoing of all kinds; sound leadership has a moral foundation.

Good leaders cultivate honest speech; they love advisors who tell them the truth.

An intemperate leader wreaks havoc in lives; you're smart to stay clear of someone like that.

Good-tempered leaders invigorate lives; they're like spring rain and sunshine.

Get wisdom—it's worth more than money; choose insight over income every time.

The road of right living bypasses evil; watch your step and save your life.

First pride, then the crash—the bigger the ego, the harder the fall.

It's better to live humbly among the poor than to live it up among the rich and famous. (The Message)

Textbooks, college courses and professional seminars focus on characteristics of good leaders—so does Proverbs. Ability to motivate, honesty, strong morals, values honest feedback, provides stimulating work environment, values wisdom over money, demonstrates humility, and sensitive to the poor; these are the qualities identified by the wisdom literature of Proverbs

Millions of dollars, exhaustive writings, and significant energy are expended on leadership development for businesses and non-profit organizations. And yet, in recent years our world has seen a significant number of "leaders" who have not displayed the characteristics suggested in Solomon's writings in Proverbs. Being a leader can become a heady experience—one which causes the individual to think more highly of herself/himself than she/he should. Pride leads to demise, as we have seen over and over again with the corporate debacles of Enron, Tyco International, Adelphia, and WorldCom; the implementation of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act for accounting reform; and Bernie Madoff's fraud arrest.

Later in the scriptures we see the example of Jesus in servant leadership—washing the feet of the disciples, feeding the hungry, and telling us that we should be about the work of freeing the captive, addressing the needs of the poor, and preaching the good news. Servant leaders may be perceived to be less than strong because of their servant hood, and yet they model integrity—where their thoughts, words and actions flow from a consistent desire. One of the biggest reasons for leaders losing the respect of their followers is a lack of true integrity where their private lives and thoughts do not match their public statements, or that they are inconsistent, adopting principles that are popular and appropriate to the moment, rather than sticking to their underlying, but potentially unpopular, principles.

APC

### **Point for Prayer:**

What areas of my leadership need to better reflect the wisdom of Solomon and the example of Jesus?