

## **Biblical Leadership**

**with Pastor & Professor Will Salyards**  
**An interview by Andrew Guthrie**

The professors here at Epic Bible College are wonderful people. Not only do they teach great classes but they have a lot of wisdom in other areas as well. Professor William Salyards is not only a teacher, but also the lead pastor at Shepherd of the Hills Covenant Church. He and his wife, Debbie, have been serving at Shepherd for almost eight years.

**Q: What prompted you to take a job as professor here at Epic Bible College?**

Epic is a true Bible College, that is, it takes as its central text the Christian Scriptures. Those who attend such an institution do so in the desire to bolster their faith or prepare for Christian service in some form. Teaching here then puts any instructor in the epicenter of that desire and in proximity to the passion that fuels it. It allows one a voice into another generation of Christian leadership that is, in my view, priceless.

**Q: How has teaching at Epic strengthened or changed your view on leadership?**

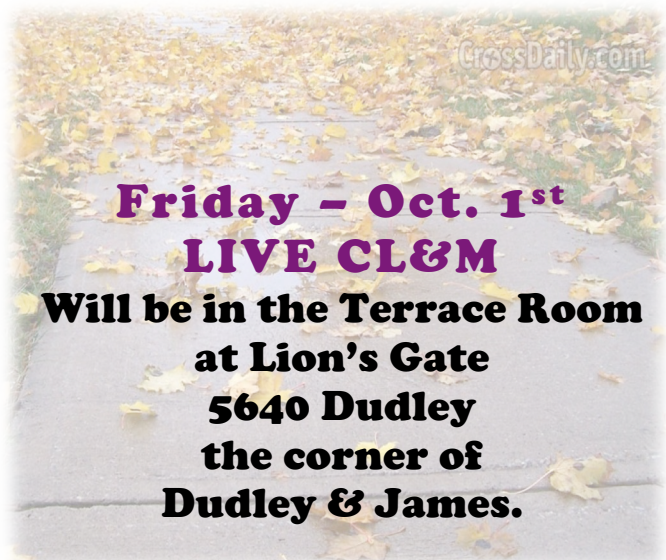
Leadership is a multifaceted expression within human sociality. The wonder within it is that free beings subjugate their (autonomy) in order to be directed - to a point. Most of us see leaders as those who take on a task that we'd rather not do. In exchange for taking on the task we accept their direction. We do this until our desire for independence exceeds our sense of obligation to the exchange... It is encouraging as well as refreshing to be among students eager to enter Christian leadership. It has likewise affirmed the tremendous need to "fully equip" them in the nuances of leadership as well as the teachings of the Word.

**Q: What is the verse in Christian scripture that best expresses leadership?**

Summing up the greatest enterprise among people is not easy but of the texts that speak to leadership in its practice and its motive are the words of Jesus calling us to "In everything, do to others what you would have them do to you."

**Q: What advice would you give on leadership to a pastor who has just started serving at a local church?**

In all the myriad ways that you are among people, while there, listen. The Holy Spirit will speak to you through his people and listening in the full range of communication is vital. Not only will doing so save you energy, you'll find your encouragement locker staying full longer. A corollary to this is to trust people, not as confidant, but as those called of God and who labor alongside you.



## Do Not Compromise God's Leadership Values,

by Paulina Quesada

*For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.*

Colossians 1:9-12 (NIV)

The Apostle Paul's style of leadership is one of the greatest examples of strength and wisdom. Jesus is the head of the Christian church, but Paul's unmerited role is so significant that his devotion and love to Christ is an example of how we should live our lives. His leadership style was developed by simply doing the will of God. To say he was an ideal model of leadership may be considered by some as an understatement. He left an

indelible mark through his letters, which make up most of the New Testament. Paul spread the word of Christianity with great success, and he did so without compromising his values.

Modern teachings on leadership lead us away from true, effective leadership and many times, as well, a biblical perspective. Often we look to and admire leaders who are on television, radio, the Internet, or who author books that inspire us. Their biggest flaw is often exalting themselves over God's word. We inadvertently grieve the Holy Spirit when we place our faith in these men and women and not in God. However the real question we should be asking ourselves is whether or not they are leading powerful lives through the Spirit's power.

Training and leadership conferences are filled to capacity. However, this type of training provides inadequate guidance and unclear understanding of true leadership. Paul puts to shame the many leaders who command vast resources and are at best capable of achieving insignificant improvements.

## If You Are Alive, You Struggle With Pride,

by Jordan Hulog

Pride is the greatest enemy to anyone who desires to walk in the way of the Lord. All throughout Proverbs is the warning to stay away from a prideful spirit, for destruction will ensue (Prov. 16:18). The angel of God, who we now know as Satan, said to himself, "I will ascend to heaven and set my throne above God's stars...and be like the Most High" (Isa. 14:13-14). The spiritual climate of today certainly does nothing to repudiate pride, but rather, individualism has fostered American arrogance into becoming a post-Christian society.

"Arrogance," "egotism," "braggadocio," "conceit"—these are all synonyms for pride and carry with them a connotation of "puffed up." We might describe pride with a puffed out chest, chin held high, and a pompous smirk. What many people utterly fail to recognize is that pride, in the most biblical sense, is any attitude or mindset that regards the self first and

ultimately spawns decisions more beneficial to the self than anyone else. In short, pride is self-centeredness. What this means then is that, though the common view of a proud person is "macho" and one who "thinks highly of himself," pride may also be in the heart of the one who hangs his head. The proposition is that pride is not found only in those who think of themselves *more highly than they ought*, but is all-inclusive for those who think of themselves *more often than they ought*. The person who never holds his chin up, never puffs his chest out, and never displays a pompous expression, is still a candidate for pride. Thus, an "I'm-so-ugly" attitude can be as much the sin of pride as a "look-at-how-great-I-am" attitude on the basis that the thought centers on the self.

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All the while, the body of Christ continues to lay stagnant without any real direction. We need to study the Pauline letters for that is where we will find the answers that can move us out of man's wisdom and into the wisdom from above: directly from God Himself.

Paul was a man of scant resources who accomplished so much with so little. This clearly is where the strength of his leadership is demonstrated. His style came from God's principles and not his own human skills. If we just take the time to apply Paul's leadership ethics, principles, and style into our lives the church, and the world around us, would not be in



## Pride, continued from page 2

Even the most humble person can struggle while in his flesh with the sin of pride. This redefining of pride shows us that pride is in some way the cause of all sin. When a child disobeys his parent and steals cookies from the jar, the real root of that child's transgression is self-centeredness. Some may argue that there are other psychological factors involved in the child's indiscretion. However, when we understand the nature of sin and its affect upon the inherent disposition of humankind toward self-centeredness, we are left with no other originator for sin except pride.

We must combat pride with a humble heart and hold Jesus as our ultimate example of humility. For "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble" (James 4:6). But Jesus "humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross" (Phil. 2:8). Take note that humility results in death of the flesh whereby the Spirit takes control of the person and gives life. Perhaps the quintessential tool for fighting against pride is love for God—a love, which motivates us to love even our worst enemies.

such chaos. We know that right now is a time of preparation, in a time with an uncertain future. We have the ability to glorify our Father in Heaven and reach others who are lost in a dying world. After all, this is the Great Commission, one of our main purposes of life.

**Shhhhhhhhh!**

**Keep it on the low down.**

Returning students—  
register one week early:  
Oct. 4-9<sup>th</sup>

That's right. Due to exploding enrollment, returning students will be able to register an entire week before Open Registration begins for new students.

This will help you to get into those popular classes you need to graduate—you know, the ones that always fill up early.

Be sure to meet with your advisor to keep on track!

**Yearbook Portrait Week**  
Oct. 4-9<sup>th</sup>

The yearbook staff will be on hand to take your photo for the yearbook—don't be left out!

## *This Week In Church History with Pastor Charlie*

### **September 19**

1881: U.S. President James Garfield (the only minister to be elected President), died of a gunshot wound eleven weeks after a deranged assassin shot him in the back at a train station in Washington.

1943: The first Baptist church in Anchorage, Alaska, was established. (The second in all of the state of Alaska.)

### **September 20**

1378: The beginning of the "Western Schism," a split within the Catholic Church from 1378 to 1417. During this period, two men simultaneously claimed to be the true Pope. The dispute was driven completely by politics rather than any real theological disagreements.

1958: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was stabbed in the chest by a deranged black woman in Harlem in New York City. After surgeons saved his life, Dr. King was calm and without anger toward his attacker. "Hatred paralyzes life; love releases it..."

### **September 21**

1452: Birthdate of Girolamo Savonarola, Italian Dominican reformer famous for his religious zeal. For 14 years his preaching led the reformation in Florence, before his attacks on the corrupt Pope Alexander VI led to his excommunication. In 1498, he was convicted of heresy, hanged, and burned.

1522: Martin Luther published his German translation of the New Testament.

1814: Francis Scott Key's patriotic poem, "The Star Spangled Banner," was first published. (The poem, applied to the music of a popular drinking song, became the American National Anthem in 1931.)

1823: Mormon leader Joseph Smith claimed this was the day the angel Moroni first appeared to him.

### **September 22**

1862: President Lincoln announced his "Emancipation Proclamation." NOTE: This is often misunderstood. It did not free the slaves. It said the U.S. government would consider all slaves free in those states that were still in rebellion 100 days later. So, the southern states had until January 1st to rejoin the Union if they wanted to keep their slaves. (None did.) Consequently, in all areas retaken by the Union after January 1st, the Union army liberated all the slaves they encountered.

### **September 23**

63 BC: Birthdate of Augustus Caesar, the emperor whose order that "all the world should be taxed" forced Joseph and Mary to travel to Bethlehem.

1595: Spain launched an intensive missionary campaign in their colonies in the American Southeast. During the next two years, about 1,500 American Indians were converted to the Christian (Catholic) faith.

1667: The colony of Virginia passed a law that stopped slaves from obtaining their freedom by merely converting to Christianity.

### **September 24**

787: The Second Council of Nicaea (the Christian Church's 7th ecumenical council) opened. The Council restored the veneration of Christian images and relics.

1683: Jews were expelled from all French possessions in America.

### **September 25**

1555: The Peace of Augsburg was signed, resolving bitter disputes between Protestants and Catholics in Germany. The Peace allowed German princes to select either Lutheranism or Catholicism for their entire domain. (Citizens who did not wish to conform to the prince's choice were free to migrate to a different region where their desired religion was observed, which was pretty enlightened for the 16th century.)

1789: Congress passed the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which guaranteed freedom of religion.

1890: The Mormons outlawed polygamy so Utah could join the Union as the 45th state.



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