

Editorial

Following the lead of the articles in this issue, please allow me to suggest several characteristics that Christian leaders should have present in their lives. This list is not meant to be exhaustive but certainly challenging.

Christian leaders should be prophetic. Many persons do not speak out and take biblical stands on issues. In our lead article R. Philip Roberts goes against the grain of the culture's same-sex marriage mentality as he introduces the Kansas City Declaration on Marriage. This document prophetically declares that God established the definition and morality of marriage as the union of one man and one woman for life, and thus, it should not be changed.

Christian leaders should be preachers of God's word. Many people today say that the preaching of the word of God is obsolete and that church leaders need instead to come up with creative new possibilities for their congregations. David Larsen soundly refutes this view in three featured addresses that answer the question: "Is Preaching to be Passé?"

Christian leaders should especially look to Christ and his example when serving the Lord becomes difficult. Michael McMullen introduces a previously unpublished sermon on leadership by Jonathan Edwards, the 18th century preacher, whose message on Moses' complaint about a task that God had given him is especially relevant for us today.

Christian leaders should support corporate worship in song. In "Leadership of the Church Choir," Lee Hinson examines the church choir's connection to biblical and historical models, along with any implications for 21st century ministry.

Christian leaders should refute non-Christian religions and their teachings. Sadly, many people embrace religions that are not within the bounds of Christianity. In "Was Black Theology Another Religion?" Kevin Smith places Black theology outside of the Christian sphere.

Christian leaders should treat people with respect and not be arrogant. So many leaders today are full of ego and treat others with contempt. In "Isaiah's Theology of Pride," W. Creighton Marlowe warns against arrogance and provides a sober reminder for any leader, would-be leader, or nation to depend upon the Lord rather than relying on themselves.

I trust that this issue will be useful to you. Enjoy!

Terry L. Wilder, Editor