

Leadership Training: The Importance of Character

1. We Want Christian Leaders

First and foremost, all leaders (in whatever role) at St Alkmund's need to be Christians – who believe the gospel, and have a personal relationship with Jesus.

But what else should we look for?

Group Exercise

What qualities do people look for in political or business leaders?

Look at the following passages which describe qualities to look for in church leaders. Divide the qualities given into 'Character' and 'Skills':

1 Timothy 3:1-13 Titus 1:5-9 Acts 6:1-3

Character/Behaviour	Skills/Gifts

Summarise what these passages say about qualities needed for Christian leadership.

How is it different from the way the world views leadership?

2. We Want Christian Leaders Leading Christianly

In Christian leadership, character comes before competence, skills, ability and experience. Don't feel you could never perform a certain role because you don't have the 'right' skills.

So, for example:

- It's not right to say "I can juggle – I can be a youth leader."
- But equally, it's not right to say "I can't juggle – I can't be a youth leader."

The main quality for Christian leadership is a godly, Christian character. That is, a purity and obedience to God in every area of life.

- Every Christian should be seeking this godly lifestyle, but those of us in leadership roles need to take a 'lead' in godly living.
- This does not mean leaders need to be perfect! We are all still sinners.

Why do you think the Bible puts so much emphasis on character?

- We are working for the Lord not men (Colossians 3:23), so must do as pleases him.
- We're not trying to run an efficient business, or even a charity, but rather a church.
- Leaders (in whatever role) represent the church.

3. The Place of Skill

Skills are secondary. Those who are not interested in developing a Christian character shouldn't be in church leadership, however talented or gifted they may be.

Of course, certain roles in the life of the church require certain gifts or skills. Some of these you may have, others you may need to learn.

In some cases secular skills may need to be unlearned for church leadership! Can you think of any examples?

For Reflection:

Do you find the emphasis on character encouraging or discouraging? Why?

How are you seeking to develop a godly character?