

Professional Perspectives for Christian Senior Officers

The **Attitude** of a Christian Senior Officer

A look at Peter helps us understand the requirements for a godly attitude in positions of responsibility. Peter had many qualities we expect in a military leader. He was direct, active and decisive. He often was the first to respond to Christ, not only for himself but also on behalf of the other disciples. He continued in the forefront after the resurrection (See Acts 1:15). Yet Christ had to teach Peter significant lessons about godly attitudes. He taught him how to be more effective within the personality, ability, and opportunity God had given him.

An Accurate View of Authority and Service

John 13:3-4 Before Jesus washed the disciples' feet, He was fully aware of His authority and position in the Kingdom. John reminds us that Jesus viewed His exalted position accurately. He did not seek His own glory, but entrusted that to the Father. Instead, He used His authority and power to serve others.

Submission to Christ's Authority

John 13:8-9 One way Christ taught His followers to be servants was by washing His disciples' feet. At first, Peter refused to let Jesus wash his feet. Christ responded that, without submission, Peter would have no part of His work. Peter submitted.

Luke 5:4-5. Surely a fisherman knew more about fishing than a carpenter! They had been at it all night. Now it was the wrong time of the day. But again Peter submitted—and brought in a great catch.

Humility

Luke 5:6-8. Submission to Christ involves humility. Even when it came to his profession, Peter learned that Jesus was in control. In response, he fell down in humility before Christ.

John 21:15-17. Peter's ultimate lesson in humility occurred when Christ appeared after the crucifixion. After denying Christ three times, Peter was asked by Christ three times if he loved Him. Peter's hurt was deep as he remembered the denial, but it led to a great ministry as he continued to lead the disciples.

Faith

Luke 22:31-32. Jesus knew Peter would have a temporary failure of faith, but also that his faith would be restored and that he would have a significant leadership role after His death. *“But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.”*

Love

John 13:34 and **1 Peter 5:1-5**. Christ taught that the leader's conflict between mission accomplishment and the welfare of people is resolved by love and service. Peter learned and taught others these lessons well.

Recognition of and Submission to Institutional Authority and the Provision of God

Matthew 17:24-27 and **1 Peter 3:13-25; 4:12-19**. A leader with many powerful attributes may tend to think he or she is always right. Even when one is in the right, Jesus taught Peter to abide by the rules of the institution "so that we may not offend them." The cross of Christ is offensive enough to people immersed in sin, without us also bringing offense to them. Christ also taught that God will provide for us in such circumstances. Peter learned well and taught submission to instituted authority and trust in God.

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What do you see in Peter's life that helps us understand the requirements for a godly attitude in positions of responsibility?

John 13:3-4

John 13:8-9

Luke 5:4-5

Luke 5:6-8

John 21:15-17

Luke 22:31-32

John 13:34 and 1 Peter 5:1-5

Matthew 17:24-27 and 1 Peter 3:13-25; 4:12-19