

Paul was not a Lone Ranger!

He was a Great Leader and Organizer, more like an NGO President

Eight Aspects of Paul's Leadership Skills

1) Gradual start with long apprenticeship

- **14 years in the Eastern Mediterranean** – Arabia, Damascus, Syria, Cilicia (cf. Gal 1:17-21)
- **Learns primarily from the risen Jesus** – Visions & Revelations (cf. 2 Cor 12:1-7a)
- **Member of Xn communities in Syria** – Damascus & Antioch (cf. 2 Cor 1:32; Gal 1:17; 2:11)
- **Assistant to Barnabas for a time** – “I went to Jerusalem **with Barnabas**” (Gal 2:1)

2) Organization expands over time

- **Recruits more and more associates:** Silas, Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Onesimus, Gaius, Aquila & Prisca, Phoebe, Tertius, etc.
- **Founds more and more communities:** Phil, Thess, Cor, Eph, Beroea, Troas, Miletus...
- **Always wants to expand to new areas:** “But now... since I have desired to come to you for many years, I hope to see you in passing as I go to **Spain...**” (Rom 15:23-24)

3) Good relationships with clients/converts

- **Cares for his “children” as a “Father”** – “I became your father in CJ thru the gospel.” (1 Cor 4:15)
- **Sometimes scolds them as immature** – “I fed you milk, not solid food...” (1 Cor 3:2)
- **Stresses relations as “brothers/sisters” (*adelphoi*)** – most common address in all his letters
- **Appeals for reconciliation of disputes** – “I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to come to a mutual understanding in the Lord.” (Phil 4:2)

4) Collaboration with other leaders

- **Apostles are “servants” of God/Christ: *Douloi*** – Rom 1:1; 1 Cor 7:22; Gal 1:10; Phil 1:1
- **Stresses lack of rivalry with other apostles:** partners (Gal 2:9); God's co-workers (1 Cor 3:4-23)
- **Although he sometimes challenges them** – “Incident at Antioch” (Gal 2:11-14)
- **Stresses need for unity in communities** – Paul, Apollos, Cephas, Christ? (1 Cor 1:10-13)

5) Leadership by inspirational example

- **Followers should “imitate” him and others, since they “imitate” Jesus (esp. in suffering)** – “Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.” (1 Cor 11:1; cf. 1 Cor 4:16-17)
- **1 Thess 1:6-7** – “You became imitators of us and of the Lord, receiving the word in great affliction, with joy from the holy Spirit, so that you became a model for all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.” (see also Phil 3:17; 2 Thess 3:7-9)

6) Willing both to praise and to challenge

- **Often praises Thessalonians & Philippians** “We give thanks to God always for all of you, remembering you in our prayers, unceasingly calling to mind your work of faith and labor of love and endurance in hope...” (1 Thess 1:2-3)
- **Harshly scolds the Galatians** – “I am amazed...” (Gal 1:6-7); “O foolish Galatians!” (3:1)
- **Deals with many problems in Corinth** “I urge you...” (5x); “Do you not know...” (10x)

7) Financial responsibility and planning

- **Stresses the need for everyone to work** – “...we urge you... to work with your own hands, as we instructed you...” (1 Thess 4:10-12; cf. 1 Thess 2:9; 1 Cor 4:12)
- **Accepts financial support from *older* churches (Phil 4:10-20; 2 Cor 11:8-9)** – but doesn't burden the church where he's presently living/working
- **Organizes a large collection for the poor in Judea**
 - **1 Cor 16:1-4; 2 Cor 8:1-24; 9:1-15** – detailed instructions
 - **Rom 15:25-28** – “I am going to Jerusalem to minister to the holy ones. For Macedonia and Achaia have decided to make some contribution for the poor among the saints...”

8) Maintaining good communications

- **Sends letters if unable to visit, e.g. from prison** (Phlm 1, 9, 23; Col 4:3, 10)
- **Sends messengers/emissaries:** Timothy, Titus, Epaphroditus, etc.
- **Wrote more letters than we have today** (cf. 1 Cor 5:9; 7:1; 2 Cor 2:3-4; 7:8-12)
- **Prefers personal visits:** “prepare a guest room for me” (Phlm 22); plans visit Rome (Rom 1:9-13)
- **Answers questions, addresses problems** (cf. 1 Cor 1:11; 5:1 – oral reports & letters received)

Table-Group Discussion Questions:

1. **What can we learn from Paul’s missionary “style” and organizational skills?**
2. **In what way can our Church become more “Pauline”?**

Summary & Application

- **Paul never worked or traveled alone**
 - We too need to work in teams
- **Paul started as a junior assistant**
 - We need to mentor younger ministers
- **Paul had more and more associates over time**
 - We need to recruit and train new volunteers
- **Paul cooperated with many other missionaries**
 - We need to collaborate on many levels
- **Paul stressed the need for unity among Christians**
 - We need to avoid forming cliques and factions
- **Paul was both Father and Brother to his converts**
 - We need to combine authority and companionship
- **Paul stressed hard work and financial responsibility**
 - We need to contribute our time, talent, and treasure
- **Paul organized a collection for the poor**
 - We need to help the needy of our own day
- **Paul was “all things to all people”**
 - We need to be adaptable in different situations
- **Paul stressed both theology and ethics**
 - We need to focus on both faith and morals
- **Paul both praised and scolded, as necessary**
 - We need to balance encouragement and challenge
- **Paul told people to imitate his life and actions**
 - We need to set a good example for others to follow
- **Paul both preached orally and wrote letters**
 - We need to supplement teaching with written materials
- **Paul frequently quoted and applied scriptures**
 - We need to read and use the Bible regularly
- **Paul maintained his close connection with Jesus**
 - We need to pray and attend liturgy regularly

Some Concluding Thoughts

2 Cor 13:11 – “Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you.”

Phil 4:8-9 – “Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you.”