

# Ruler Redemptive

## Biblical

Romans 12: 8-*proistemi* (προΐστημι, 4291), "to preside rule," also means "to maintain," Titus 3:8 and 14, "to maintain (good works)," "profess honest occupations" (kjv, marg.... "trades"). The usage of the phrase *kala erga* (good works) in the Pastoral Epistles is decisive for the rendering "good works"<sup>1</sup>

The Greek word for "rules" (or "leads") is *ho proistemi*. It means literally "He that is placed in front," indicating a position of both authority and responsibility. Both of these go hand-in-hand in God's Kingdom and are tempered by a servant's heart.

The "leading" described by this word is NOT to be mistaken for simple **management**. Nor does it describe a gift that puts the person into a prominent public ministry.

Rather, it strongly indicates a requirement to lead for the good of the Body with a sense of personal responsibility. Hence, the exhortation to "*lead with diligence*".

The word translated as "diligence" means "prompt efficiency", "without delay", "a holy haste or zeal". All of this requires self-discipline and vigilance as to the condition of the flock.

## Characteristics

Thrives under pressure and puts the people around him under the same pressure

This can be motivational or abusive

Is skilled at time management

Controls his time and gets the job done

Can be loose on ethics when the end justifies the means

Does not ask "why" questions

Pulls together a group based on loyalty to the mission

Causes the group to own a problem together

Can value loyalty more than competence per se

Can use imperfect people and draw the best out of them without allowing their brokenness to damage the goal of a project or group

Takes a vision and puts together an effective plan

Is an implementer, not a visionary

Is not into blaming himself or others

Wants to figure out how to fix it when something goes wrong

Is an empire-builder. Wants to make anything bigger and better

Doesn't look to others for solutions

<sup>1</sup> Vine, W. E., Unger, M. F., & White, W., Jr. (1996). In [Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words](#) (Vol. 2, p. 386). T. Nelson.



Owens his own problems  
Does not look for help. Focuses on the immediate task  
Is not easily distracted from a task  
Can be task-oriented and fall short in nurturing, shepherding, and correcting what is spiritually wrong  
Involved in all kinds of projects  
Enjoys diversity  
Does not need the affirmation of other people when he has made up his mind  
Can do a disproportionate amount of work with the given resources  
Struggles with doing things in his own strength versus relying on God's power and plan  
Takes on more tasks than is normally possible to complete in the time that he has  
Can struggle with proper focus. Is he doing the thing God called him to do, or is he just doing things to stay busy?  
Is willing to be vindicated by God, and not man  
Can withstand strong opposition  
Not into details  
Own their problems and do not have a welfare mentality  
Big on loyalty – more important than competence of co-workers  
Doesn't like to be micro-managed  
Not in to blame – will figure out how to fix a problem and move on  
Implementer – Take vision, break it down into pieces, and implement it  
Nearly impossible to get ruler to partner with others unless loyalty is built  
Expert in dealing with people and projects  
Innate ability to measure character  
Able to stand alone on an issue of principle or integrity  
Believes the best in people  
Has the skill to motivate people  
Lead by working with and through others  
Will often get the job done by organizing and delegating responsibility and authority to others

## Major Weaknesses

Insensitivity  
Since he is goal-oriented, he may fail to nurture those around him and may apply pressure without moderation  
Ethics and integrity  
The end justifies the means  
Compromise  
Can organize activities without sufficiently training others  
Settling for his agenda instead of God's agenda



## Biblical example of Ruler –

Nehemiah

Nehemiah serves as an example of superb leadership skills and heart motivation:

Leaders have a special feel for the cause of God's people (Neh 1:1-4).

Leaders have the ability to survey and define what needs to be done (Neh 2:12-17).

Leaders have the ability to break down major goals into smaller achievable tasks (Neh 3:1-32).

Leaders can take pressure and opposition and still proceed (Neh 4:1-23).

Leaders make things "easy" for others and are not a personal burden (Neh 5:14-19).

Leaders know how to delegate the authority needed to accomplish the responsibility given (Neh 7:1-2).

Joseph- Gen 30-40, Deborah - Judges 4-5, David - 1 SAM 16-31, Annas- Luke 3:2, John 18:13-24, James (brother of Jesus- Matt 13:55; Mark 6:3; Acts 12:17; 15:13; 21:18, Jairis - Matt 9:18; Mark 5:22-43; Luke 8:41-45, Noah, Solomon, Jeroboam, Nehemiah, Boaz, and Joseph

## Discernment

