

Leadership skills can be learned to some extent, but it must be recognized that Christian leadership is a calling for which the called one is equipped with certain spiritual gifts. In Rom. 12:6-8 Paul enumerates a number of spiritual endowments:

We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully. (underlining mine)

The word used for leadership is *προϊστῆμι* which means to put before, to be over, to rule, to superintend. It is used eight times in the New Testament. It is used three times of Christian leaders in their capacity of ruling the church (Rom. 12:8; 1 Thess. 5:12; 1 Tim. 5:17). It is used three times of managing ones own family. In 1 Tim. 3:4-5 those who aspire to church leadership as elders must be those who manage their own families well. The same requirement is made of deacons in 1 Tim. 3:12. The other two times the word is used are found in Titus 3:8 and 14. The New International Version translates both phrases in which *προϊστῆμι* is found: "to devote themselves to doing what is good."<sup>29</sup> The meaning here seems to be taken from the root idea "to put before," so to be forward in or devoted to good works. (See Donald Guthrie's comments in The Tyndale New Testament Commentaries; The Pastoral Epistles, London: Tyndale Press, 1951, pp. 207, 208.) However, Dibelius and Conselmann may be more accurate in focusing on the idea of "care"

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<sup>29</sup>The verb *προϊστασθαι* is used here in the sense of "to be concerned with," "to care for."