

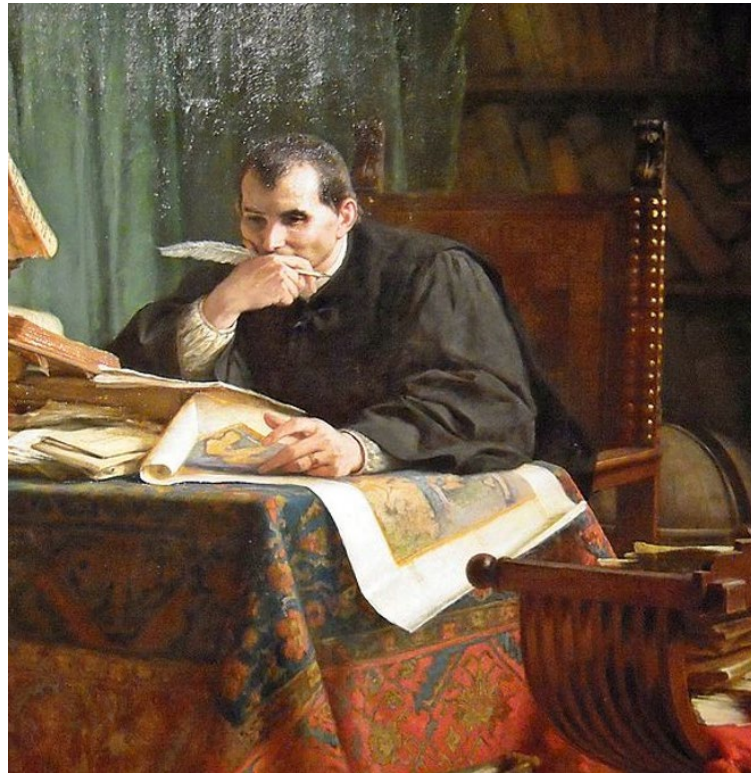


Leadership Webinar: Introduction

Grace Chinese Christian Church



“...a question arises: whether it is better to be loved than feared, or feared than loved? It may be answered that one would wish to be both, but, because it is difficult to unite them in one person, ...”



“...it is much safer to be feared than loved, when, of the two, either must be dispensed with. ...”

“...Because, this is to be asserted in general of men, that they are ungrateful, fickle, false, cowardly, covetous, and as long as you succeed, they are...”

“...yours entirely; they will offer you their blood, life, property, and children, as is said above, when the need is far distant; ...”

“...but when it approaches, they turn against you.”

Machiavelli, Niccolo. *The Prince* (trans. W. K. Marriott), Chicago: Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc., 1952, p. 24.

The Prince

Compare with Biblical Examples





Exodus 20:18-26

Note the People and the PLAN

- ✓ People were afraid, trembled, distant (vv. 18, 21)
- ✓ People didn't want to be personally responsible (v. 19)
- ✓ Moses assured (v. 20)
- ✓ Moses drew near (v. 21)
- ✓ God didn't want the human (idols, hewn stones, physical) overshadowing Him (vv. 22-26)

See also: Exodus 34:29-35
Numbers 12:1-16
Deuteronomy 17:14-20



“Don’t fear Saul:”

Abiathar via David 1 Samuel 22:23

David via Jonathan 1 Samuel 23:17

King Saul

Fear of All EXCEPT God

- ✓ People (1 Samuel 15:24)
- ✓ Goliath (1 Samuel 17:11)
- ✓ Philistines (1 Samuel 17:24)
- ✓ David (1 Samuel 18:29)
- ✓ Philistine army (1 Samuel 28:5)
- ✓ Ghost/Spirit of Samuel’s words (1 Samuel 28:20)



דָּוִד or דָּוִד = “David”
דָּוִד = “beloved, love”

King David

Beloved not Feared

- ✓ God (1 Samuel 13:14)
- ✓ People (1 Samuel 18:16)
- ✓ Absalom (2 Samuel 13-19)
- ✓ Sheba (2 Samuel 20)

Rule of a King

(Deuteronomy 17:14-15a, 19b (NRSV))

“When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and have taken possession of it and settled in it, and you say, ‘I will set a king over me, like all the nations that are around me, you may indeed set over you a king, whom the LORD your God will choose ...that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, diligently observing all the words of this law...”



Israelite Citizenship (Proverbs 24:21-22 (NSRV))

“My child, fear the LORD and the king,
and do not disobey either of them;
for disaster comes from them
suddenly,
and who knows the ruin that both
can bring.”



Fear and its Applications



Biblical Points

- 1) “Fear of the LORD” is a prerequisite
- 2) Moses got residual credibility through closeness to God
- 3) Joshua and Samuel also had authority by closeness to God
- 4) King Saul was more afraid of human conditions than in awe of God.
- 5) King David loved God and was loved by God, BUT he didn’t exert authority in his family.

Modern Applications

- a) Awe, reverence, and a devotional life are all vital
- b) We experience “coattail” authority via spiritual disciplines
- c) Prayer and Bible study, but meditation, fasting, giving, worship, service
- d) Fear of human conditions is not faith, so it is sin (Romans 14:23)
- e) We do not honor God by neglecting our families and expressing love without authority



Pastor Yonggi Cho

Pastor, largest church in South Korea

Although he has successfully built the megachurch of megachurches, Dr. Cho (like many megachurch pastors) was not immune to sin (embezzling). But he built that megachurch on the basis of “small groups” and provides both a warning with his life and some wisdom from the days of his early success:

*“I know it is necessary for a leader to be broken. If he isn’t broken, he will never be able to lead God’s people as a shepherd leads the sheep, he will always be leading out of fear. He will be thinking of money or of power, because he will be afraid of losing his authority or his position. He will never be able to put his trust in the lay people for fear of losing his own position and authority. He will be afraid that any mistake they make will reflect on him. He will do a lot of things **for** the Lord, but God will not be able to use him, because he will be afraid to listen.”*