



A matter of the heart



# Looking for a King





**“[Kish] had a choice and handsome son whose name was Saul. There was not a more handsome person than he among the children of Israel. From his shoulders upward he was taller than any of the people.”**

**1 Samuel 9:2**





**And Samuel said to all the people, “Do you see him whom the Lord has chosen? There is none like him among all the people.” And all the people shouted, “Long live the king!”**

**1 Samuel 10:24**





# **1 Samuel 13**





Samuel said, “What have you done?”  
And Saul said, “When I saw that the people were scattering from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines had mustered at Michmash...”





I said, ‘Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the favor of the Lord.’ So I forced myself, and offered the burnt offering.”





**And Samuel said to Saul, “You have done foolishly. You have not kept the command of the Lord your God, with which he commanded you. For then the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever.**

**1 Samuel 13:13**







**“The Lord has sought out *a man after his own heart*, and the Lord has commanded him to be prince over his people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you.”**

**1 Samuel 13:14**





# **The Difference**

**The difference between success and failure in Christian leadership lies in the condition of the heart.**





**“In Saul, God had given to Israel a king after their own heart... [He was] of noble stature and princely bearing, his appearance accorded with their conceptions of royal dignity; [he would be] best calculated to secure respect and honor from other nations....**





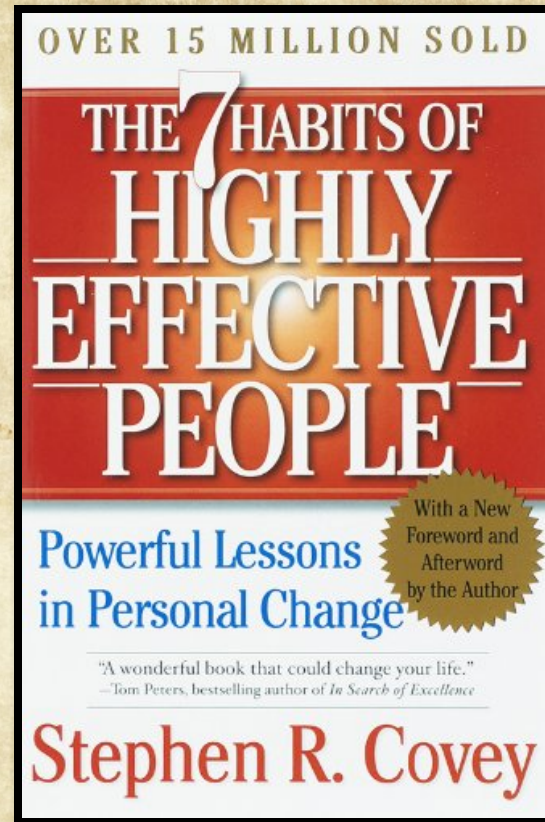
**They did not ask for one who had true nobility of character, who possessed the love and fear of God....**

**God gave them such a king as they desired—one whose character was a reflection of their own.”**

**Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 636**



Character Ethic  
vs.  
Personality Ethic





# **1 Samuel 16**



So it was, when they came, that he [Samuel] looked at Eliab and said, “Surely the Lord's anointed is before Him!”

1 Samuel 16:6





But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: *man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.*"

1 Samuel 16:7









## **Acts 13:22**

‘And when he had removed him, he raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.’





# **After God's Own Heart**

Leaders who have the heart of God are entirely submissive to His will. They act out of integrity rather than fear. God completely occupies their hearts.







# The Leadership Principle





All true obedience comes from the heart. It was heart work with Christ. And if we consent, He will so identify Himself with our thoughts and aims, so blend our hearts and minds into conformity to His will, that when obeying Him we shall be but carrying out our own impulses. *Desire of Ages, 668.*







**“And he said to his men, The LORD forbid that I should do this thing to my master, the LORD’s anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the LORD.”**








A matter of the heart





Who has the heart? With whom are our thoughts? Of whom do we love to converse? Who has our warmest affections and our best energies? If we are Christ's, our thoughts are with Him, and our sweetest thoughts are of Him. All we have and are is consecrated to Him. We long to bear His image, breathe His spirit, do His will, and please Him in all things.

*Steps to Christ, page 58*



