



**Southeastern**  
Baptist Theological Seminary

**PREPARATION FOR CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP  
ENTRANCE EXAM**

The Ph.D. Entrance Exam in Christian Leadership will consist of essay questions in two parts, each part approximately 3 hours in length.

The exam will be closed book, so you will not be allowed to use any resources other than the writing instruments you bring with you and the writing paper and instructional materials that will be provided in your exam folder.

Applicants are expected to be prepared to write for 90 minutes on any of the following questions. Essays will be assessed according to the following criteria:

**Relevance and Argumentation**

- Students should give careful attention to the question and outline refined arguments. Student should incorporate & critically interact with relevant resources related to the field.

**Writing Mechanics**

- Students' responses should be intelligent, and precise. Reasonable arrangement of paragraphs and ideas should enhance a reader's understanding. Responses should be focused, and vocabulary varied. Responses should contain very few grammar, spelling, and punctuation errors.

**Awareness of Relevant Scholarship**

- Students should show awareness of seminal sources, major figures and pivotal events related to the field and incorporate and properly interact with resources related to the question.

## Reading List:

I. To prepare for this entrance exam, be familiar with each of the following works:

- Collins, Jim. *Good to Great: Why Some Companies Make the Leap and Others Don't*. New York: HarperBusiness, 2001.
- Covey, Stephen R. *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People: Powerful Lessons in Personal Change*. 25th anniv. ed. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2013.
- Dale, Robert D. *Ministers as Leaders*. Nashville: Baptist Sunday School Board, 1984.
- Drucker, Peter F. *The Effective Executive: The Definitive Guide to Getting the Right Things Done*. Rev. ed. New York: HarperBusiness, 2006.
- Finzel, Hans. *The Top Ten Mistakes Leaders Make*. Colorado Springs, Colo.: David C. Cook, 2007.
- Kotter, John P. *Leading Change, with a New Preface by the Author*. Boston: Harvard Business Review Press, 2012.
- Kouzes, James M., and Barry Z. Posner. *The Leadership Challenge: How to Make Extraordinary Things Happen in Organizations*. 5th ed. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2012.
- Laniak, Timothy S. *Shepherds after My Own Heart: Pastoral Traditions and Leadership in the Bible*. Downers Grove, Ill.: IVP Academic, 2006.
- Lencioni, Patrick M. *The Advantage: Why Organizational Health Trumps Everything Else in Business*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2012.
- Maxwell, John. *Developing the Leader within You*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2012.
- Nouwen, Henri J. M. *In the Name of Jesus: Reflections on Christian Leadership*. Chestnut Ridge, NY: The Crossroad Publishing Company, 1989.
- Rainer, Thom S. *Who Moved My Pulpit?: Leading Change in the Church*. Nashville: B&H Books, 2016.
- Sande, Ken. *The Peacemaker: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Personal Conflict*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 2004.
- Sanders, J. Oswald. *Spiritual Leadership: Principles of Excellence for Every Believer*. Updated ed. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2007.
- Wilkes, C. Gene. *Jesus on Leadership: Timeless Wisdom on Servant Leadership*. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House Publishers, 1998.

## Prep Questions:

- II. Be prepared to answer each of the following questions. You may use an unmarked Bible, but no other resources. The best responses will give clear evidence of knowledge of the resources listed above.
1. Biblically and theologically define “Christian leadership.” Be certain to explain what makes leadership distinctly “Christian.”
  2. Describe the role of the pastor of a local church, giving particular attention to the pastor’s calling, qualifications, and responsibilities.

3. Develop a strategy for leading a Christian organization through change. Include clear evidence of your knowledge of theories for leading through change and conflict.
4. Discuss Jesus' leadership style by situating his style within the categories of Robert Dale and others.
5. Describe an effective process for leaders to make appropriate decisions, beginning with Peter Drucker's suggestions.
6. Elaborate on the importance of the leader's character within both secular and Christian leadership.
7. Describe four mistakes that Christian leaders make, and offer a correction for each mistake. You may use a maximum of two mistakes from Finzel's list.
8. Assume you are the new pastor of a declining church. Based on your readings about leadership and organizations, design a revitalization strategy for the first three years of your pastorate.
9. Prepare a lecture on "Characteristics of a Christian Leader." Assume you are teaching a seminary class.
10. Critique the concept of a "Level 5 Leader" in light of scriptural teachings.
11. Develop an essay describing the image of "shepherd" as a leader in the Bible.
12. Discuss the relationship between "character" and "competency" in a Christian leader.