When Christian Leaders Fail

2 Chronicles 21:4-20 (ESV)

I. The life of Joram, king of Judah, shows _____ _____ when Christian leaders fail.

A. The _____ (or faithfulness) of Christian leaders tends to be _____.

B. When Christian leaders sin, the _____ they lead _____ for it.

C. The failures of Christian leaders invite God's _____ to _____ Christ and His Church.

D. Church members caught in the crossfire often become _____ and _____ of leaders and/or the institution.

II. Even when Christian leaders prove untrustworthy, God can still be trusted:

A. We can trust that His _____ is consistent and _____.

B. We can trust that He always _____ His _____.

1. God preserved the line of David and the people of Judah until Jesus came.
2. Similarly, God will _____ the _____ and the message of the Gospel until Christ returns.

III. Leaders may fail, but God never will. Trusting Him means committing to grace, discipline, and reformation.

A. Grace:
    1. Offer _____ to failing leaders, as we have been _____.
    2. When we cannot trust leaders who have failed, we _____ and hope that God's grace will _____ them and—when appropriate—our relationship or their role as a leader.

B. Discipline:
    1. Sin _____ and becomes out of control, because the people near sinners don't _____ enough.
        a. Church discipline is _____ someone enough to talk to them about _____ sin problems.
        b. Church discipline happens when ordinary Christians go beyond that first conversation to helping a brother or sister _____ the _____ of difficult sins.
    2. This organic _____ approach to church discipline (as Jesus describes) is borne out of trusting God and His _____ more than we trust ourselves or others.

C. Reformation:
    1. Trusting God helps us remember that even though leadership failure is contagious, He can _____ the _____ from spreading to others (and you!).
    2. The Church is _____ than any one leader or group of leaders. So we trust Christ, while seeking to _____ the Church.