

The **ENTRUSTED Leader's Workbook**
***“Barnabas”* Edition**

Seven Core Values that Impact Every Leader-to-Follower Relationship:
HEART-MISSION-APPROACH-STABILITY-LIFESTYLE-FORTITUDE-WORLDVIEW

Lesson Seventeen: A Public Display of Faith, Hope, and Love

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CORE VALUE: A LIFESTYLE that is Beyond Reproach and publicly demonstrates faith, hope, and love in the marketplace.

BIBLE VERSE(S): 1 Corinthians 13:13

ONE SIMPLE TRUTH: Faith, Hope, and Love should undergird every action and decision initiated by a leader.

APPLICATION: Look for ways to extend Faith, Hope, and Love, especially love, to those who follow your lead.

Introduction:

The importance of a lifestyle that is beyond reproach and that publicly demonstrates faith, hope, and love in the marketplace comes down to a matter of how a leader appears to others. To sustain credibility and trust, a leader must live beyond reproach. No appearance of wrongdoing should ever be associated with a leader. A leader must broadcast the clear image of God's light on the world. Others must perceive the positive moral influence associated with the saltiness of a leader's lifestyle. The leader whose followers come away with feelings of faith, hope, and love will feel warmly towards the one they view as their leader.

A direct correlation exists between how followers perceive a person and his or her effectiveness as a leader. Even the slightest hint of an illicit attitude or action erodes a leader's credibility and trustworthiness with others, thereby reducing his or her leadership effectiveness. A leader builds confidence with followers by the public display of behavior, not hollow words through which even the most casual observer can see.

Leaders stand on highly visible platforms for all to see. A leader's lifestyle forms an image in the minds of others that directly impacts his or her effectiveness.

Have you ever considered how YOU appear to others, to those you lead? How do you want others to perceive you? How do these same people really perceive you? Can you say with confidence that these two perceptions are one in the same? Is how you think and want others to perceive you the same as how people really perceive you? The answer to this question directly impacts your ability to lead others.

Many people expend much time, energy, and money carefully crafting an image they want others to perceive. Politicians, entertainers, and other high profile leaders commonly employ a marketing approach to creating a public appearance. Unfortunately, often the real private lifestyle of such people does not match the façade of their public image. Once exposed as a fake, everyone quickly sees that what's inside this leader does not correlate with the outside.

A leader's appearance is the outward expression of an inward condition of his or her heart. A leader's real image can most clearly be seen by how he or she treats those who follow. Followers pick up clues and pronounce judgment on the inward condition of a leader's heart based on the evidence of how they perceive their leader's treatment of others.

Jesus taught his followers the importance of a lifestyle where one's outward appearance and inward condition match. Jesus instructed his disciples to avoid the hypocrisy of the Pharisees whose lives were characterized by the outward conformity to a religiously expected lifestyle but whose heart's remained full of greed and self-

indulgence. God expects a leader who claims to follow Jesus to first clean up one's inside which will in turn clean up one's outward appearance as well.

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.

Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean. In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.” (Matthew 23:25-28 NIV)

Jesus desires the outward expression of our lifestyle to reflect the inward condition of a heart transformed by his presence. When Jesus begins to take hold of a leader's lifestyle the outward appearance changes. Jesus stated that one's outward appearance of this inward transformation would be so obvious to others that the entire world would know that a person lives as a disciple of Jesus. Do you know what this one outward expression is that Jesus claimed would distinguish his followers from all others? In the blank below, write one word that marks the appearance of a follower of Jesus.

LOVE distinguishes a person as a true follower of Jesus Christ. Love displayed openly and genuinely for all to see. By love, the world will know Jesus' followers. This presupposes that Jesus' follower demonstrate this love as they interact in the world. “By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (John 13:35 NIV). Would people who follow you recognize you as a follower of Jesus based on an outward appearance of love?

The world honors strength and power, not love. Many leaders who claim to follow Jesus give lip-service to love, but openly display strength and power as the basis of their leading. Those who follow worldly leaders would characterize them as powerful and authoritative, but not a loving leader. Jesus intends for the outward appearance of his followers who lead to publicly display the inward change that has taken place within their hearts. A change marked by love first but also evidenced by a strong sense of faith and hope. “And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.” (1 Corinthians 13:13 NIV) Read all of 1 Corinthians 13 and answer the following questions.

Questions of the Biblical Text¹ (1 Corinthians 13)

What do you think Paul meant by his description of a person who speaks well but without the appearance of love is nothing more than a noise maker? (verse one) Think about our earlier discussion of a person’s outward expression not matching one’s inward condition.

In verses four through eight, Paul lists 16 descriptors of how love appears in a person’s life. List all sixteen descriptors of love below.

1 _____	2 _____
3 _____	4 _____
5 _____	6 _____
7 _____	8 _____
9 _____	10 _____

¹ Unless otherwise noted the questions listed in *The ENTRUSTED Leader’s Workbook* are based on: *The Holy Bible: New International Version* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996, c1984)

11 _____

12 _____

13 _____

14 _____

15 _____

16 _____

Do the people who follow you recognize these sixteen traits of love in your lifestyle?

In I Corinthians 13 Paul concludes by listing three permanent outward expressions that should be seen in the lifestyle of a follower of Jesus Christ. What are they?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Comment on the degree to which you think those you lead observe these three outward expressions in your lifestyle.

Which of the three traits is the greatest according to the Apostle Paul?

Describe in your own words what “LOVE” looks like to you in a marketplace leader-to-follower relationship?

Commentary

Eloquent speech without love produces nothing but a lot of noise. Such a life may draw the attention of others, but this existence remains void of substance. In the same way, superior spiritual insight, a strong faith, and personal sacrifice all come to nothing

without love. Outward expressions of a religious lifestyle can all be faked to draw attention to self. Love cannot be faked. True love originates in a heart transformed by a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and the presence of the Holy Spirit. God desires the outward expression of love to mirror the inward condition of your heart.

The Greek language uses multiple words to convey various forms of love. The word used by the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 13 is *agape*, which describes a selfless love extended based on what's best for another. In contrast to *agape* is *eros* which describes a love intended to satisfy one's selfish desires. The world lives by *eros*. Followers of Jesus live by *agape*. *Eros* is self-centered love while *agape* is others-centered love. The *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament* contrasts *eros* (Ἔρως) and *agape* (Ἀγαπήν) as follows.

“Ἔρως is a general love of the world seeking satisfaction wherever it can. Ἀγαπήν is a love which makes distinctions, choosing and keeping to its object. Ἔρως is determined by a more or less indefinite impulsion towards its object. Ἀγαπήν is a free and decisive act determined by its subject. ... *Eros* seeks in others the fulfilment of its own life's hunger. Ἀγαπήν must often be translated “to show love”; it is a giving, active love on the other's behalf.”²

As a follower of Jesus Christ, the ability to selflessly extend a giving and active love (*agape*) on someone other's behalf originates with God. For God initiates this sacrificial approach to love and enables us to love others in the same way. God's love for mankind has stood the ultimate test of selflessness so proven by God's willingness to sacrifice his own son on mankind's behalf. “For God so loved the world that he gave his

²*Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, Vols. 5-9 Edited by Gerhard Friedrich. Vol. 10 Compiled by Ronald Pitkin., ed. Gerhard Kittel, Geoffrey William Bromiley and Gerhard Friedrich, electronic ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1964-c1976), 1:37.

one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

(John 3:16 NIV) Because God extends *agape* to us, we can extend *agape* to others.

God desires selfless love to rule the leader-to-follower relationship. When a leader chooses to lead by serving others, one must rely on others following voluntarily. People must feel secure in a leader’s love (*agape*) if they are to voluntarily follow. Followers must be convinced in their minds that the leader truly cares for their well being and has their best interest at heart. People want to know that the leader respects their value and worth. This *agape* coming from a leader to a follower must be real and not just empty words or a fake image.

In 1 Corinthians 13, the Apostle Paul describes in very practical terms what *agape* looks like in human relationships. This picture of love commonly gets recited at weddings in the context of a husband and wife marriage relationship. This picture of love can also be applied to the leader-to-follower relationship. The leader who extends *agape* as described by Paul in 1 Corinthians 13 creates a real appearance to others that will compel them to follow voluntarily. As you read the list below, take note of the selfless and even sacrificial nature of love described by Paul. Imagine the positive impact a leader can have when followers realize they are being lead with love like this.

- Patient
- Kind
- Not Envious
- Not Boastful
- Not Proud
- Not Rude
- Not Self-seeking
- Not Easily angered
- Keeps no record of wrongs
- Does not delight in evil
- Rejoices in truth
- Always Protects

- Always Trusts
- Always Hopes
- Always Perseveres
- Never Fails

The Apostle Paul concludes 1 Corinthians 13 by listing three permanent outward expressions that should be publicly evident in the lifestyle of every follower of Jesus Christ. These three outward expressions that indicate a person has a mature relationship with Jesus Christ are the following: Faith, Hope, and Love. Followers of a leader who claims to follow Jesus Christ should recognize the presence of faith, hope, and love, in the life of their leader. Would those who follow you describe you as a person of faith, hope, and love?

Jesus taught that natural man's inward condition is rotten and that the outward expression of one's heart makes him or her unclean. "...What comes out of a man is what makes him 'unclean.' For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and make a man 'unclean.'" (Mark 7:20-23 NIV) The Apostle Paul described the outward expressions of man's sinful nature as follows: "The acts of the sinful nature become obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like..." (Galatians 5:19-20) The leader whose lifestyle remains under the control of his or her sinful nature cannot help but outwardly express attitudes and actions described by Jesus and Paul. The leader, however, who submits control to the Holy Spirit will progressively mature in Christ and outwardly express attitudes and actions of Faith, Hope, and Love.

We have already defined love. *Agape* describes a selfless love extended based on what's best for another. The Greek word for Faith is *pistis*. Strong defines *pistis* as follows:

“...conviction of the truth of anything, belief; in the NT of a conviction or belief respecting man's relationship to God and divine things, ... the conviction that God exists and is the creator and ruler of all things, the provider and bestower of eternal salvation through Christ...a strong and welcome conviction or belief that Jesus is the Messiah, through whom we obtain eternal salvation in the kingdom of God.”³

The Greek word for Hope is *elpis*. Strong defines *elpis* as follows: “...expectation of good, hope...in the Christian sense...joyful and confident expectation of eternal salvation.”⁴ Leaders who are inwardly controlled by the Spirit will outwardly demonstrate faith, hope, and love to others. The absence of the outward expressions of faith, hope, and love indicate a life that inwardly has not yielded to the control of God's Holy Spirit.

Paul stated that of the three, love is the greatest. *Agape*, selflessly acting based on what is best for another, motivates a follower of Jesus to enter the world's marketplace and to lead as a servant. *Pistis*, the conviction that God exists as the sovereign king and ruler of heaven and earth, and *elpis*, a positive attitude of expecting to see the goodness of God in one's life, motivate a follower of Jesus to stay in the world's marketplace and lead as a servant when circumstances get difficult.

³James Strong, *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible : Showing Every Word of the Test of the Common English Version of the Canonical Books, and Every Occurrence of Each Word in Regular Order.*, electronic ed. (Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship., 1996), G4102.

⁴Ibid., G1680.

We live in a world today which embraces the philosophy of relativism. This relative worldview rejects the existence of absolute truth. The person who embraces a relative view of life will eventually spiral downward to a life that reflects NO faith, hope, or love, as Paul described.

Relativism rejects the possibility of faith in an absolute, divine being. If you follow relative philosophy to a logical conclusion, then one must conclude that nothing absolute or divine exists in the universe. Relativism says that there is no God and that man is alone in the universe, consequently “Faith” is impossible because no object of faith exists. The logical conclusion of this philosophy inevitably exhibits self-centeredness because one believes that nothing greater than self exists.

Relativism also impacts hope. This philosophy states that no eternal, supernatural, or sovereign being exists and that chaos and random chance rule the universe, not an absolute and divine creator. Man is left with no choice but to conclude that the course and events of the universe run out-of-control. This view of life leaves one with no “hope.” The logical conclusion of this worldview leaves a person feeling despair, depressed, and helpless.

Lastly, relativism impacts love. Relative ethics state that there is no absolute right or wrong exists in the universe. This philosophy says that the situation dictates the rightness or wrongness of a person’s moral behavior. The logical conclusion of this philosophy leads to unbridled sensuality. According to relativism each person lives free to satisfy the desires of his or her heart, because each individual has the ability to define what is right for them. This view of life

destroys the Biblical concept of *agape*. A relative, self-centered, and sensual view of love will result in broken relationships and deep emotional pain.

Application

In Galatians chapter five, the Apostle Paul says that followers of Jesus have been called to freedom. This freedom yields a lifestyle of serving one another as opposed to a lifestyle of indulging our sinful nature. Paul explains that an inward yielding of one's heart to the Holy Spirit provides the key to an outward expression of a lifestyle marked by faith, hope, and love. Simply striving to resist the impulses of the sinful nature does not produce faith, hope, and love. Submission to the leading of the Spirit, who works to conform us into the image of Christ, results in the desired outward lifestyle.

As a leader in the marketplace who follows Jesus, you must step back and honestly assess how others view you. Consider asking them for some honest feedback. See if your followers describe you in terms consistent with faith, hope, and love. If you hear, however, words more along the line of one's sinful nature consider this a red flag.

Yielding to the Spirit becomes for the most part a function of a person's spiritual discipline. The more consistently you practice disciplines such as Bible study, prayer, fellowship, service, and worship, the more the Holy Spirit works in your life. The evidence of this work is a stronger faith, unwavering hope and selfless love for others.

Conclusion

Faith, hope, and love should undergird every action and decision initiated by a leader who claims to be a follower of Jesus. Conveying these marks of spiritual maturity towards others impacts a leader's effectiveness more positively than striving to create a facade of being-in-charge. God's will for an Entrusted Leader directs him or her to

selflessly love those he or she leads, not just boss them around and tell them what to do. Read and meditate on 1 Corinthians 13 and ask God to open your eyes to ways to apply all sixteen descriptors of love listed by the Apostle Paul to the relationship you have with your followers.

We live in a culture dominated by the philosophy of relativism. This relative worldview has left many, even some of your followers, drowning in brokenness and despair. The leader-to-follower relationship represents an opportunity entrusted by God to publicly demonstrate faith, hope, and love in the marketplace. The leader who has yielded to God's spirit and displays the fruit of the spirit will over time encourage, enable, and empower his or her followers. Leader who allow the sinful nature to rule his or her actions and decisions will discourage, deflate, and demotivate their followers with in the words of Paul: "...hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like." (Galatians 5:20-21 NIV) I encourage you to look for ways to extend faith, hope, and love to everyone you encounter in the marketplace. If you do so your followers will notice the difference between you and a leader who follows the ways of the world.