

## 8. Leaders Who Are Driven or Leaders Who Are Led

In our topic “Call Four – Come and Shepherd”, we mentioned that Christ wanted the disciples to lead by love. As a result, Christ asked Peter three times, in John 21:15-17, “Do you love Me?” Today, we live in a very driven society because of the fact that people are driven by fear, instead of being led by the love of Christ. This is true even among many Christian leaders. Today, we would like to focus on how we can help potential Christian leaders become Christians who are led, rather than driven.

A driven leader is a leader who is driven by fear. A leader who is led, is led by love. When Adam and Eve sinned, it changed their relationship with God, their relationship with themselves, and their relationship with each other. Their relationship with God was broken so that there was now separation. Their relationship within themselves was controlled by fear, guilt, and shame as Genesis 3:10 says, “So he said, “I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.” Their relationship with each other was now controlled by blame.

Before we became Christians, we were motivated by fear, guilt, and shame from within our spirit. However, we did not automatically lose that fear, guilt, and shame when we became Christians. In fact, most Christians are still motivated by those three things much of the time. Whenever we act in our own strength, we will act out of fear, guilt, and shame. That is why Christ said, in John 15:5, “I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.” Those three things will cause us to be driven instead of led.

However, Christ wants us to be led by His love rather than driven by our own fears. That is a key to becoming an effective spiritual leader. Ephesians 5:1-2 says, “Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.” As we walk in the love of Christ, we will lead with the love of Christ.

Several key passages help us to understand how to lead in the love of Christ. In Romans 6:6, we see that we are to know that our old man was crucified with Christ. In Romans 6:11, we read, “Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Here, we see that we are to reckon (to put to our account as true, and act upon the fact that we are dead to sin and alive to Christ). Then, Romans 6:13 and 16 tell us that we act by learning to yield. Romans 6:16 says, “Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one’s slaves whom you obey, whether of sin *leading* to death, or of obedience *leading* to righteousness?” If we yield to sin by depending on our own strength, we will act out of fear and be driven by that fear. When we yield to Christ, we act out of love.

Colossians 2:6-7 give us another principle for learning to be led by love, when those verses tell us, “As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.” In these verses, we see that:

- ◆ We have received Christ Jesus the Lord

- ◆ We are to walk in Him
- ◆ We are to take root in Christ
- ◆ We are to be built-up in Christ
- ◆ We are to be established in the faith

We walk in Christ as we learn to enjoy fellowship with Him moment-by-moment. If we go for several hours without even thinking about Christ, or praying to Him for wisdom and strength, it probably means that we are depending on our own strength most of the time, because we have not learned to walk in Him. When we walk in Christ, it means that we talk with Him and pray about each decision and choice we make. Since we make several hundred choices every day, it means we will be talking with Christ throughout the day.

You have probably planted many plants through the years. The key to the development of those plants is the development of their root structure. If the root structure does not develop properly, the plant will have difficulty getting sufficient food and water in order to grow and become a healthy plant. In the same way, we are to develop our roots in Christ and His strength, instead of depending on our own strength. That way the power of the Holy Spirit will be working in us and the love of Christ will be flowing through us throughout the day.

To be built-up in Christ means that we continue to grow in learning what Christ teaches us from His Word. True growth will produce growth in character, growth in knowledge, and growth in ministry. Growth in knowledge, without growth in character, will produce a good Pharisee. Growth in knowledge, without growth in ministry, will produce a dead intellectualism. However, when we grow in knowledge and apply what we learn to our daily lives by becoming obedient to what we learn, we experience inward growth (character) and outward growth (ministry). The result is that we become established in the faith.

Ephesians 3:16-19 help us to understand another principle about being led by love, when those verses tell us, “That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height—to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” In these verses, we see that God wants us to:

- be strengthened with might, through His Spirit, in the inner man
- let Christ dwell in our hearts (to be comfortable and at home) by faith
- be rooted and grounded in love
- comprehend the four dimensional love of Christ which passes knowledge
- be filled with all the fullness of God

Notice that points three and four both deal with love. Just as we saw, in Colossians 2:6-7, that we are to be rooted in Christ, here, we see that we are to be rooted and grounded in His love. We mentioned that proper rooting and grounding develops a good root structure in a plant. In these verses, we see that we are to develop a good root structure in the love of Christ. In addition, this love is described in four dimensions – width, length, depth and height. Most things we can see

only have three dimensions. However, plants have four dimensions because the root structure is below the surface of the ground and cannot be seen.

Just as the root structure of a plant is below the ground and cannot be seen, our growth in understanding Christ and His love for us is to grow in our spirit (inner man). When there is healthy growth in understanding the love of Christ within our spirit, the evidence will be seen in the rest of our life. Our mind will be transformed – Romans 12:2. Our motivation and emotions will be motivated by the love of Christ so that we no longer live to please ourselves – 2 Corinthians 5:14-15. Our human will is changed so that we respond as Christ did, in Luke 22:42, “...saying, ‘Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.’” The result is that our actions will be the kind God desires in Colossians 3:17, “And *whatever* you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

When we act out of fear, we will be driven, and we will drive others. However, when we take root in the love of Christ, we will be motivated by the love of Christ and will be led by that love. As a result, we will lead others in love. May the Lord richly bless you as you learn more and more to take root in the love of Christ so that you are motivated by the love of Christ and lead others in love.