

1. Leaders Are Driven by Fear or Led by Love

When Adam and Eve sinned, it changed their relationship with God, within and with others. In their relationship with God, they experienced separation. After Adam and Eve sinned, God came to fellowship with them in the Garden of Eden. Genesis 3:8 tells us how they reacted, “And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.” Sin had broken their relationship with God, so they hid when they heard the voice of God.

Sin also changed their relationship within. Since they no longer had a relationship with God, Adam and Eve focused their attention on themselves. As Adam focused his attention on himself, he experienced fear, guilt and shame. 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.’” In these verses, we see that:

- ◆ Adam was now controlled by fear – “I was afraid”
- ◆ Adam was now controlled by guilt – “I was naked” (see also Genesis 2:25)
- ◆ Adam was now controlled by shame – “I hid myself” (see also Genesis 3:7)

Sin also changed their relationship with others. Their relationships with others were now controlled by blame. When Adam was confronted with his sin, he immediately blamed God and blamed Eve. Genesis 3:12 says, “Then the man said, ‘The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.’” We see that he:

- Blamed God – “the woman who YOU gave to be with me”
- Blamed Eve – “she gave me of the tree, and I ate”

Eve followed the example of her husband. Genesis 3:13 says, “And the LORD God said to the woman, ‘What *is* this you have done?’ The woman said, ‘The serpent deceived me, and I ate.’” Here, we see that Eve blamed the serpent for deceiving her. The New Testament confirms that she was deceived in 2 Corinthians 11:3 and 1 Timothy 2:14.

Many people ask why Adam was held accountable for sin in Romans 5:12 since Eve ate first. That verse says, “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.” The answer to that question is found in Genesis 3:6. That verse says, “So when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.” Here, we see that Adam was standing right there with her and did nothing to protect her from deception. 1 Timothy 2:14 adds, “And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.” In addition to not protecting his wife, even though he was standing right there with her, Adam also chose to sin.

Once Adam sinned, every person was driven by fear. This can be seen both when a person is a young child and when a person has become a world political leader. Only Christ can change a leader from being driven by fear to being led by love. We can become led by love. 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 tells us, “For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.” Over the next several topics, we will be talking about

how we develop leaders who are led by love.

Christ is our greatest example of One who leads by love. Christ gave us a parable in John 10 to help us understand what it means to lead by love. John 10:2-4 says, “But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.” In these verses, we see several things about a shepherd or leader who leads by love:

- A shepherd calls his own sheep by name
- A shepherd leads his sheep
- A shepherd goes before his sheep
- A shepherd has sheep that choose to follow him
- A shepherd has a voice that is known by the sheep

First, a shepherd calls his own sheep by name. A leader who is led by love takes time to get to really know the people he is leading. He gets to know as much as possible about them, so he can pray effectively for them. Paul showed the importance of calling people by name in Romans 16. Although Paul had never been to Rome, Paul named twenty-seven people to whom he sent greetings. In addition to those twenty-seven, he also mentioned various family members of several.

Second, a shepherd leads his sheep. Today, most people drive sheep. However, we see here that Christ says the shepherd leads the sheep. One of our team members, who helped lead the Bible Institute for thirty-five years, grew up herding sheep. Many years ago, I asked him what it takes to lead sheep. He said that, in order to lead sheep, a shepherd must spend time with a sheep from the time it is a lamb. He added that during that time, the shepherd must play with the lamb, care for the lamb, feed the lamb, and just spend time with the lamb. When that lamb becomes an adult sheep, it will follow the shepherd wherever he goes. Then, I asked what it takes to drive sheep. The answer was, “A few good dogs.” In order to lead others, a leader must have a personal concern for each one.

Third, a shepherd goes before his sheep. Here, we see that a leader does not expect others to do what he is not doing. Sometimes, I meet a pastor who says his job is to feed the sheep and that they are supposed to do the leading of others to Christ. Such a statement is often followed a few minutes later by the statement that it is hard to get people to share the Gospel with others. A spiritual leader, who is leading by love, will be showing others how to lead people to Christ, instead of just telling them that it is their duty.

Fourth, a shepherd has sheep who choose to follow him. The sheep want to go with the shepherd and be where he is because the shepherd is sharing his life with the sheep. Christ often chose to invite people to just spend time with him. Some chose to respond to that invitation, while others did not. In John 6:66-69, we read, “From that *time* many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. Then Jesus said to the twelve, ‘Do you also want to go away?’ But Simon Peter answered Him, ‘Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we

have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” The disciples chose to follow Christ because of the relationship He had built with them. They followed His example and were learning to imitate His conduct.

Fifth, a shepherd has a voice that is known by the sheep. Later in the passage, Christ illustrates the difference between a shepherd and a hireling. One who is hired does not care for the sheep. In contrast, Christ says in John 10:14-15, “I am the good shepherd; and I know My *sheep*, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.” Here, we see that Christ compares His relationship with the sheep to His relationship with the Father. A spiritual leader will have his voice recognized by those he leads, because they recognize that he will help them to get to know the Father better. They also recognize that the leader is willing to sacrifice for them.

A leader who is driven by fear will drive others. A leader who is led by the love of Christ will also lead others and help them grow in their understanding of the love that Christ has for them. That is what makes it possible for them to really take root in Christ and in His love. Colossians 2:6-7 says, “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.” Leaders who are led by love will be able to help others:

- Receive Christ Jesus as Lord
- Learn to walk in Christ
- Learn to take root in Christ
- Learn to be built up in Christ
- Learn to become established in the faith
- Learn to live a life of thanksgiving

The reason a leader can help people learn these things is because he has learned these things for his own life. Instead of telling people what to do, he will be showing them by his own example. Such leaders transform the lives of those who follow them instead of just providing leadership.

As spiritual leaders, our goal should be to see the Lord transform the lives of those that we are leading. That will happen as we allow the Lord to lead us in our own lives. May the Lord richly bless you as you show others how to be led by the Lord in love because you are being led by love.