

**Lesson 9**  
**The Price Tag of Spiritual Leadership: Love**

“But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.” 1 Timothy 1:5

“For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.”  
2 Timothy 1:7

I. Lead without \_\_\_\_\_.

You cannot be an effective spiritual leader by being \_\_\_\_\_ or cowardly.

II. Lead with \_\_\_\_\_.

Contrast between John 20:19 and Acts 4:13. Where did the disciples get this new courage?

In love, a leader can face unpleasant and difficult conditions with steadfastness, even though it means incurring personal unpopularity. He is not intimidated by the circumstances nor deterred by opposition. By faith he speaks the truth in love and trusts God with the results.

The example of King Hezekiah in 2 Chronicles 32:6-8

III. Lead in \_\_\_\_\_.

Love balances power. It also is opposed to fear, because fear stems from self-love or self-concern or self-protection. Biblical love is concerned for the spiritual well-being of others. Love for others will give you the boldness to overcome your fears so that you can speak to them about their need for Christ or their need to obey His Word.

The Greek word for love in 2 Timothy 1:7 is “agape.” It describes the selfless, committed love of intellect and will which places value upon the beloved, even though they may be undeserving or unattractive or even unable to return the same.

You get your best definition of love from the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 5:8 is “agape”; this is genuine, divinely inspired, self-sacrificing, undeserved love.

IV. Lead with \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_.

If you want to become the leader you have the potential to be, you need to pay the price of self-discipline.

The Greek word is egkráteia. The word means to get a grip on oneself. It is critical because a leader need to get a grip on his focus and his habits in order to lead others.

Spiritual leaders \_\_\_\_\_ more than they direct, and they \_\_\_\_\_ more than they instruct. They intuitively recognize that they are serving something—and Someone—larger than themselves and their own objectives.

Paul's example in 1 Corinthians 9:24-27. He uses the Greek word adokimos for "disqualified." It speaks of being rejected, eliminated by a rule violation, disapproved. It's the same word translated "depraved" or "reprobate" in Romans 1:28, "God gave them over to a depraved mind."

Paul was describing the sort of shameful, disgraceful, personal elimination that occurs when an athlete is found to have deliberately cheated or otherwise violated the rules of the race. Paul did not want to be disqualified from spiritual leadership. Therefore, he disciplined himself for the purpose of godliness.

IV. Homework

1. Choose a Bible reading plan and follow it each day.
2. Memorize 2 Timothy 1:7, "For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline."
3. Married Men: Pray with your wife three times this week.

Single Men: Pray three times this week for the following:

1. To find your greatest joy in God.
  2. To be the spiritual leader God wants you to be.
  3. To influence others to know and worship God.
4. Evaluate your habits. What habits need to stop? What habits need to start? What fears need to be overcome? What excuses are you making for being passive and timid? How will your love for God direct your love for others that you are called to lead?

V. Lesson 9 Questions

1. How does love for God relate to how we love others? How do we balance love and truth?
2. What is the relationship between love and self-discipline?
3. What are some areas of life that you need to have a plan and the discipline to carry out the plan?

Some ideas:

Prayer	Reading the Bible
Finances	Fitness
Spiritual Leadership of wife and children	
Timeliness	Sexual Purity
Ministry	Hospitality

4. How can we help each other improve in these areas?