

### **Colossians 3:12-17**

*Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

### **1 Peter 3:8**

*Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.*

**1.** Lead others, in all things and in all ways, as you want to be led. Put yourself in your volunteers shoes when making decisions, making changes, in how you admonish, and in how you interact. Do unto others as you would have others do to you. This is one way the Law and the Prophets are fulfilled (**Matthew 7:12**).

**2.** Do not use people simply as a means to an end, only seeing them as a way to accomplish tasks, goals, and vision. Leaders had a tendency to do this. See people as individuals. Invest in them. Lead by walking with them and not just directing them. How you see each person on your volunteer team will dictate how you lead. Do you lead by serving or pointing?

**3.** Don't be distant from your team. Don't try to lead from a distance and simply point and direct. You do not need to be close friends, and you certainly shouldn't micromanage, but you are in the role of helping to shepherd your team and you cannot shepherd and effectively servant-lead from a distance.

\*Pray for them. What are their needs?

\*Take time to listen.

\*Help carry their burdens.

\*Work in lots of grace.

\*Encourage consistently.

\*Walk with them through their Journey.

\*Admonish when necessary.

\*Always have an open door.

\*Group text of Messenger for encouragement?

**4.** Do you have a plan in place to encourage your volunteers? Encouragement should never be reduced to a program or schedule, but reminders for you to take time to connect and encourage your volunteers consistently is important. Volunteers who are appreciated are volunteers who stay involved.

**5.** One of the greatest values of a leader is to equip others and pass things on to someone else.

Question: If you were to step down from your leadership role today, would the team and task continue on with few bumps along the way?

If not, you must begin to think beyond yourself. Proper leadership leaves a legacy, and part of that legacy is that things continue on and keep improving long after your involvement. No matter what you are doing, and you are valuable to it, things are bigger than you. Leadership is not about a singular person, but about people together.

Is there any way in which you lead that you are the only one that knows how to do a particular thing? Do you share leadership? Who are you raising up and equipping?

Don't worry about decreasing your personal value. Your value actually increases as you raise up and equip those around you.

**6.** Who discipled you? Who has invested in you? Who has prayed for you? Who is still doing those things? Recount and be thankful. Now, are you doing those things for others?

**7.** If you have been empowered, you must empower someone else. Don't work to keep others below you. Jealousy is poisonous.

**8.** Don't be scared to ask your volunteers these questions: How can I be a better leader to you? How can I help you?

***Habits of leaders:***

- a. Daily habits of connection with God. Continue glory to glory transformation. Can't force it. Holy Spirit brings it. Seek to be with Him.
- b. Consistently think about how you treat others. Do you embody servant-Christ-likeness?
- c. Consistently find the place of rest and peace in God. Let Him lead you beside quiet waters where your soul is restored.
- d. Develop the habit of reflection and evaluation. What is to continue faithfully? What needs to change? Are the most important things where you put priority and time?
- e. Be a dreamer (and the and doer). Don't settle in stats quo.
- f. Make time to learn. Never feel like you know it all.
- g. Be sure you are not chasing the world in any way that could cause you to forfeit your soul. Consistently, with the Holy Spirit's help, be honest with yourself.
- h. How is your health? What things can you do to better take care of the body that God gave you?

***Encouragement:***

1. There will be times or seasons when you feel like things are meaningless, things are empty and nothing is being accomplished. Remember the following:
  - a. Our treasure is in heaven, not here. There is our reward. We cannot calculate it now.
  - b. We often do not see the results of our efforts now. We plant trees under which we will never sit.
  - c. Be careful of the word "success" when it comes to the Kingdom of God. What is productive of the Kingdom is not the same as the world's idea of success. The key word in the Kingdom is faithfulness.
  - d. Rest in God. Find peace and joy in Him. He is our expectation, not specific outcomes of life.
  - e. Something you were involved in didn't make it, it died. Life has these things. A perceived failure does not define you. A perceived failure in venture is not failure at all.
  - f. Perseverance is the key. Push on. Push forward. God is with you.
  - g. Celebrate and remember the good things, the Kingdom things that you did see.
  
2. When you are frustrated:
  - a. Pray (maybe you should fast also).
  - b. Build yourself up in Scripture.
  - c. Don't overreact, be careful what you say, limit complaining. Talk to the proper person.
  - d. Find the "good", major in it, draw from it.
  - e. Remind yourself of why you do what you do.
  - f. Be thankful for your opportunities.
  - g. Refocus on the big picture.
  - h. If necessary, if possible, change what can be changed.
  - i. You do not have to fight every battle, you don't always have to prove yourself right.

j. You are probably having more impact than you realize.

k. Smile, laugh.

l. Remember, God is with you.