

Study Session #3 — Caring Towards All

Wednesday, March 10th at 6:00 p.m.

- **Review**

- What we are talking about in this STUDY and the Sunday night TRAINING is the 5 C's of Leadership. These are basic, Biblical principles for Christian Leaders in the local church. And they go like this...
- THE VERY BEST LEADERS IN THE CHURCH ARE...
 - ◆ those who are Connected to Jesus (Session #1 — 2/28)
 - ◆ and are Christlike in Character (Session #2 — TODAY),
 - ◆ Caring Towards All (Session #3 — 3/14),
 - ◆ Committed to the Work (Session #4 — 3/21),
 - ◆ and finally, those who are Centered on the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Session #5 — 3/28)

- **Introduction to 3rd "C" — Caring Towards All**

- As we remain Connected to Jesus, He will rub off on us, developing in us Christlike character. This means that not only will our humility increase, but so will our care for those we lead FOR Jesus is a shepherd who cares for the sheep: **John 10:11-13, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. 13 The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep."**
- Tonight we going to talk about the call to care for those under one's leadership. One way to understand care is that it is shown through acts of love and feelings of affection. Love and affection are opposites sides of the same coin! Let's take a look at each as we consider how we might show care to all we lead.

- **Love**

- There is no doubt that love is the greatest calling for any Christian. We are to love God and love others to the best of our God-given ability.
 - ◆ **Matthew 22:36-40, "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" 37 Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."**
- Love is not feeling or emotion. Biblically defined, love is action oriented.
 - ◆ **1 Corinthians 13:1-8a, "If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.**

2 And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned,[a] but have not love, I gain nothing. 4 Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant 5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;[b] 6 it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. 7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never ends."

- We must choose to be loving (patient, kind, etc.) with those we lead, even when they don't deserve it for that is how God has loved us! He loved us while we were yet enemies of His.
 - ◆ **Romans 5:8, "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."**
- **Affection**
 - Loving through action is vital because it takes into account the reality that we won't always *feel* love for those we lead. Just because we don't *feel* it doesn't mean we don't have to do it. However, if we never feel our hearts affections stirred for the people we lead, then that would be a pretty terrible thing. In [*Ethics for Christian Ministry*, Joe Trull & Robert Creech write, "Authentic Christian affection is something pastors owe their congregations ethically."](#)
 - **How can these authors tell leaders that we are required to have affection for those we lead? Because of the example and command of leaders in the Bible, particularly the apostles, Peter and Paul:**
 - ◆ **1 Peter 1:22, "Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart."**
 - ◆ **1 Peter 4:8, "Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins."**
 - ◆ **2 Peter 1:5-8, "For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. 8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."**
 - **So, how can we increase our affections for the people we lead? Consider the following passages from Paul's letters:**
 - ◆ **Philippians 1:3-8, "I thank my God every time I remember you. 4 In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, 6**

being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. 7 It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. 8 God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus."

- ◆ Thank God for them.
- ◆ Pray for them.
- ◆ Do gospel ministry, side-by-side.

- ◆ *1 Thessalonians 2:6-8, "We were not looking for praise from people, not from you or anyone else, even though as apostles of Christ we could have asserted our authority. 7 Instead, we were like young children among you. Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, 8 so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well."*

- ◆ Share your life with them.

- ◆ *2 Corinthians 6:11-13, "We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians, and opened wide our hearts to you. 12 We are not withholding our affection from you, but you are withholding yours from us. 13 As a fair exchange—I speak as to my children—open wide your hearts also."*

- ◆ Open yourself up to those you lead, speaking freely about what's in your heart.

- **Conclusion**

- Just as love is a choice, growing in our affections for those we lead is also a choice. The very best Christian leaders will make the choice to care through loving actions and genuine affection and by doing so the people under their care will have confidence that their leader has their best interests at heart and will trust them enough to follow, even when it's tough.

- **Reminders**

- Don't forget, it's not too late to sign up for the Leadership Training on Sunday evenings at 6:00 p.m. in the CLC Fellowship Hall. Simply email me at church@fbckenedy.org.
- Also, you can watch last week's study and get notes from both Wednesday and Sunday, at www.fbckenedy.org/lead.