

Training Session #3 — Caring Towards All

Sunday, March 14th at 6:00 p.m.

- **Open In Prayer**
- **Review**
 - Last week was an important discussion around the topic of Christlike Character, particularly having the humility of Jesus in our leadership. Tonight we will consider the third “C” of Christian leadership, demonstrating CARE for all those one has the privilege to lead.
- **LOVE & AFFECTION**
 - Love and affection are two sides of the same coin and they are brought to gather in this one verse: **Romans 12:9a, “Love must be sincere.”** It is not enough to grunt it out, loving people by sheer will. And it is not enough to sincerely care about people, but not let that feeling translate into action. Good leaders, who lead like Jesus, the Great Shepherd, do both. Jesus cares for His sheep by demonstrating both affection (deep feeling of care) and love (care in action).
- **BIBLE DISCUSSION**
 - Read the story of **Acts 20:17-38** and discuss:
 - ◆ *How do you see Paul caring for the elders of the church in Ephesus?*
 - ◆ *How was that affectionate care shown to Paul by the elders?*
 - ◆ *What implications does this have for your leadership?*
- **AFFECTION**
 - Write the following passages in your own words:
 - ◆ **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.”**
 - ◆ **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."

- ◆ *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."*
- ◆ *1 Thessalonians 3:12, "May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you."*
- ◆ *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."*
- How might we increase loving affection for those we lead?
 - ◆ **"Authentic Christian affection is something pastors owe their congregations ethically."** — *Ethics for Christian Ministry* by Joe Trull & Robert Creech (81)
 - ◆ (ethic=moral [principle] good)
 - ◆ ***"Affection is nurtured through the personal and***

detailed knowledge of the people and the place over time. — *Ethics for Christian Ministry* by Joe Trull & Robert Creech (81)

- ◆ ***“The relationship between pastor and congregation, as well as between pastor and the community in which the ministry is offered, is healthier when marked by a genuine affection for the people and the place. In this affection one finds pleasure in the work despite the challenges it may offer.”*** — *Ethics for Christian Ministry* by Joe Trull & Robert Creech (80)
- When have you experienced genuine care from the leaders in your life, past or present?
 - ◆ *Remembering Special Days (Birthdays, Wedding Anniversaries or Anniversaries of Loss)*
 - ◆ *Intercessory prayer*
 - ◆ *Thank you Cards and Notes*
 - ◆ *Receiving Gifts*
 - ◆ *Words of Affirmation*
 - ◆ *Quality time*
 - ◆ *Acts of Service*
 - ◆ *Physical Touch*
- Write down one thing that you can do, as a leader, to show your affection for the people you lead
- **Memory Verse**
 - ***1 Peter 4:8, “Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.”***
- **Closing Prayer**