
Leadership Principles from 2Corinthians

Living Letter (Engage Others)

Your life is an open letter [2Cor 3:1-3]. Think about the influence you have as a leader. In what ways are your relationships building your **letter of recommendation**? When you nurture and grow others, they become a visible part of your letter of recommendation.

Cost of Victory (Achieve Results)

Godly leaders act in love and truth regardless of the cost [2Cor 4:5]. **Victory costs!** Paul knew this from the very beginning of his life as a believer. The Lord said about Paul, "For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake" [Acts 9:16]. This realization did not discourage Paul. He knew that present afflictions would increase his glory beyond [2Cor 4:17-18]. Have you begun to see things from Paul's optimistic perspective? Pray for yourself and other leaders to focus on that future glory and willingly pay the cost of victory.

Give an Account (Achieve Results)

Leadership is stewardship. It's temporary and you're accountable. Spiritual leaders know they must give an account of their leadership to God [2Cor 5:10-11]. They do not settle for moving people **toward** the destination God has for them. They want to see God **achieve** His purposes through those people.

You as a Leader (Demonstrate Core Values)

Compare Paul's view of his ministry to your view of your ministry [2Cor 6:3-10]. **How do you think others would describe your leadership?** What you do reflects not only on you, but also on your ministry. Consider Paul's humility as a leader, seeking to do right without expecting any glory. What difference does this make for a leader? What differentiates you as a leader in God's eyes?

Tough on Issues, Easy on People (Engage Others)

People make mistakes. How do you respond when someone who follows you makes a mistake? Sometimes you have to call out bad behavior (like Paul did with the Corinthians). With what spirit do you “call out” your followers? Can you be like Paul, tough on issues and easy on people ([2Cor 7:8-11](#))? What difference will this make in the growth of followers?

Example in Giving (Demonstrate Core Values)

What responsibility do leaders have to give back their time, talents, and treasures?

Do you create an environment of “giving” among your followers? As a leader, do you set an example in your giving? How true are the following for you?

- I give my whole self first ([2Cor 8:5](#)).
- I give proportionately ([2Cor 8:12-14](#)).
- I give generously ([2Cor 9:6](#)).
- I give cheerfully ([2Cor 9:7](#)).

Protect Them (Engage Others)

When someone endangers those under your care, what is your response? Notice Paul’s concern for the Corinthians and how he reacted to the damage the false apostles were doing ([2Cor 11](#)). He began with a direct attack then pointed out how he was different from the false apostles. What can you take from Paul’s example to use for the next time you need to protect yourself or others?

Examine Your Spiritual State (Demonstrate Core Values)

Paul told the Corinthians to examine themselves ([2Cor 13:5](#)). It is easy to get preoccupied with day-to-day responsibilities. Then, one day you wake up and wonder who you are and how you got where you are now. As a leader, how often do you examine your spiritual state? Before you begin your daily Bible reading, ask God to help you examine your spiritual state as you read His Word.

Litmus Test (Demonstrate Core Values)

A good litmus test for great leadership is how a person uses authority and power. In [2Corinthians 13:10](#), Paul gave an example of how he leveraged his authority, using it for edification rather than destruction. As a leader, are you using your authority to build up or tear down people?