



IDENTITY TRAPS OF A LEADER

PRECEPT

ROMANS 8:15

¹⁶ For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship.

PROMISE

Each of us is a leader for we all have an influence to others, regardless of our job title and where we're planted. Part of God's calling in our lives is to be influencers to those around us, to love and serve and care for them in such a way that they might see Christ in us, that we might lead them towards Jesus. So in essence, we're all leaders. Leadership is essential in our day; leadership that is both courageous and humble. Leaders that are secure in their identity. So what does in mean by our identity as leaders? How can we avoid certain traps that threaten to take us out and keep us from having influence to others?

PERFORMANCE TRAP. A reflection question to ponder: *Am I leading so that I may acquire love and acceptance, or am I leading because I am loved and accepted?* This false identity trap holds us in pride; if we are successful it causes desperation when things go sideways. We can also see this when plans fail or relationships break apart. We think that we are a failure when these things happen and we place our value on them. There's a Biblical truth that needs to be internalized for us to overcome this identity trap, it is that we are loved children of God. Earthly fathers express deep love for their children even before they go out to this world, even when they haven't done anything. Even greater is God's love for us; God loves us and call us His children. There's nothing else we can do for God to love us more or for Him to love us less.

COMPARISON TRAP. A reflection question to ponder for this trap: *Am I leading so that I get glory, or am I leading to give glory to Jesus?* This tendency to compare can trap us in small thinking and limit our willingness to surround ourselves with people more gifted than we are. People trapped in this thinking always want themselves to be the smartest person in the room. This results to us being ineffective in building teams and growing our influence because we always feel that we need to be the best in the room. The parable in Matthew 20 is one biblical truth that we can remember to be freed from this trap. Jesus tells us about a man who owns a vineyard. As he's needing labourers to harvest his land, he went to the marketplace and hired workers. Through the day, the landowner continues to hire people to finish the job before the day ends. Upon finishing the job, the master's steward handed out all the wages and the early workers were shocked as they compared over their shoulders, for they supposed that they will be paid more. They started to grumble and begrudged the generosity of the master. As we reflect and look upon our lives, we do have tendencies of comparing our lives with our neighbours who seem to be more well-off in life. We must realize that Jesus has already given us more than enough, in fact He has given Himself to us. There's no more that Jesus can give us than Himself. Everyday we are alive and He has showered His grace on each of us and given us unique gifts and roles to play. We must realize that we are stewards of the King; we must maximize what He has given us for His glory.

COMPETITION TRAP. A reflection question to ponder: *Am I leading to achieve a personal victory, or am I leading so as to advance Jesus' Kingdom?* In Matthew 20, a mother of two sons came to Christ and ask for them to sit beside Christ in His throne in His kingdom. Jesus then tells her and the disciples that whoever wants to become great must be a servant, and whoever wants to be first must be their slave. The goal of leadership is not to beat others but to serve others. God in all of His greatness, became a man, clothed Himself in flesh, humbled Himself that He might serve all, and He calls us to serve just as He served.

PRACTICE

1. Identity Traps. How does one of these traps relate to you? How can or how did you overcome this trap?

2. Leadership. How can you influence or lead others to know their identity in Christ?

PRAYER

I. North Life Connections

- Pray for these couples as they lead the North groups: Ocampo, Ico, Abellera.

II. East Life Connections

- Pray for these couples as they lead the East groups: Domingo and Torres.

III. South Life Connections

- Pray for the Drapeza couple as they lead the South group. Pray that more members will join.

IV. West Life Connections

- Pray for these couples as they lead the West groups: Solidum and Fabregas.

V. Downtown Life Connections

- Pray for the Gamboa couple as they lead the Downtown group. Pray that more members will join.

VI. Family Retreat

- Pray that our family retreat will serve as an avenue to all to experience God intimately.

VII. Young Couples

- Pray for these couples as they lead the Young Couples: Oliveros, Imperial, & Gu-masing.