

# MUSTARD SEED LEADERSHIP

PODCAST  
- BY BRENT BRADING -



EP61

## The Leaders Dress

Code:

Love

### FOR THE GROUP LEADER

These notes have been designed to disciple leaders in round the table small group discussions.

What is in *ITALICS* is meant to be read out loud.

*Welcome to this week's Mustard Seed Leadership discussion. The current series is "The Leaders Dress Code"*

### STEP #1: ACCOUNTABILITY

*Let's get started. The topic of discussion today is "Love" But before we start on the new topic, we will usually hold each other accountable about last week's action step.*

*Since this is the first in the series, let's go straight to the notes.*

## STEP #2: READ THE NOTES

**Option 1:** Let each person in the group take turns reading a section. (Each section is marked with a **READER #** ). Go clockwise starting with the Group Leader, and highlight or underline what catches your attention.

**Option 2:** The leader reads all the sections.

**Option 3:** Watch the video.

<https://youtu.be/udIDSQ2DsAM>

## READER 1

# ***THE LEADERS DRESS CODE***

## ***8. Love***

***Romans 13:14 (NIV)*** “... clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ...”

**Colossians 3:12-15 (NIV)** “Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, **gentleness** and patience.”

**Def:** G27 ἀγάπη agapē, n. **love**, in the NT usually the active love of God for his Son and his people, and the active love his people are to have for God, each other, and even enemies

**Eg.** This is the type of love that motivated God to give his Son Jesus

**John 3:16 (NIV)** “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

**The danger for leaders is that we subconsciously separate love into the Christian part of our lives and disconnect love from the ‘secular’ part of our lives**  
- our business or organization

**Example:** Joel Manby, in his book “Love Works: Seven timeless principles for effective leaders”

- Discovered that not only is loving your team members powerful in creating a winning team
- But a winning team impacts the bottom line in a positive way

**BIG IDEA:** An environment of love releases people to do their best work.

- So don't switch off and think this is for the church world
- Leaders who reflect God's love in the workplace are discovering just how powerful the leadership of love is.

**Why is this so important?**

The scripture shows that we should put on love 'over' all of these virtues and that love brings them together in perfect unity

**Illust:** The picture here is almost like the belt that holds the trousers up and keeps the shirt tucked in

- without it the other articles of clothing lose their effectiveness

### READER 3

***The Bible is very clear about this:***

#### **1 Corinthians 13:1-3 (NIV)**

*1 If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.*

● **Ability or skill** without love is irritating to others and God

- **Power or influence** without love renders us powerless
- **Sacrifice and hard work** without love achieves nothing

**Maybe you haven't used the word 'love' in your work environment before but be sure of this:**

*- it is just as real and relevant in your business life as it is in church or Kingdom life!*

#### READER 4

***If love is so important then why doesn't everyone lead with love all the time?***

*Remember, like all of these characteristics, we REFLECT the revelation we have of God*

**1 John 4:19 (NIV)** *"We love because he first loved us."*

***So if you are not a loving leader the root of the issue is your struggle to truly receive the love***

***of God. We battle to open our hearts to receive His love because of:***

***- PRIDE - Our sense of wanting to earn the love of God prevents many people from simply receiving it.***

***- LOW SELF WORTH - Allowing our value to be linked to what others have said or our past performance, instead of the fact that we are made in God's image, makes many feel unworthy of the love of God***

***- SHAME - The guilt of past mistakes, abuses or sin makes many feel disqualified from truly receiving God's love.***

*In each case, it's only a revelation of God's unconditional love demonstrated at the Cross that can break through our hardened hearts.*

READER 5

## **CHALLENGE:**

***What does a leadership of love look like?***

*What it looks like is simply pulling all the previous characteristics together*

***“14 And over all these virtues **put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.**”***

***In other words by focussing on genuinely loving your team members and customers, you will be bringing together:***

- 1. Compassion*** - the motivating force of a leader
- 2. Kindness*** - treating people as we would like to be treated
- 3. Humility*** - focussing on others and not ourselves
- 4. Gentleness*** - the outward reflection of a heart at peace with God
- 5. Patience*** - dealing with people the way God deals with us
- 6. Forgiveness*** - allowing God's mercy to flow through us, so that it continues to flow to us.

***Instead of trying to focus on all of these traits we can focus on LOVE***

***- Love is above all of these traits***



*- And love unifies these traits by binding them together*

***So let's tighten the belt of our Dress Code and learn to lead with LOVE***

### STEP #3: SHARE YOUR HIGHLIGHT

*Now let's go around the group and take turns sharing what stood out to you the most from what we read. **What stood out to you and why?***

### STEP #4: EVALUATION

*I am going to ask each of you in turn to evaluate yourself (From a 5 which is **EXCELLENT**, down to a 1 meaning **LOTS OF WORK NEEDED!**) on how well you are doing in the area of this topic and then share this with the group and why you chose this score.*

### STEP #5: Application

***Lastly, let's go around the group and answer the following questions:***

- 1. When you hear the word 'love' and think of your business or work environment, is there a connection or does it feel like there is no place for love in the workplace?*
- 2. "Without love - skill, power and hard work become meaningless." Do you agree or disagree with this statement?*
- 3. Can you see how the other items of dress code (compassion, kindness, gentleness etc.) are actually just expressions of love? If you focussed on loving the people you work with, which of the other dress code items might grow the most?*

**CLOSING**

A great way to close off is to pair up briefly for a moment of prayer. Pray for each other that you will succeed in your action steps. Thank everyone for coming and committing to grow as a disciple of Jesus.

For more notes visit:

<https://outlookchurch.co.za/mustardseedleadership>

