

MUSTARD SEED LEADERSHIP

PODCAST
- BY BRENT BRADING -



EP62

The Leaders Dress

Code:

Peace

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 "Peace" 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/Ujx14WWp_Zg

READER 1

THE LEADERS DRESS CODE

9. Peace

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

Colossians 3:12-15 (NIV)

12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. 15 **Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.**

G1645 εἰρήνη **eirēnē**, *n. peace, harmony, tranquility; safety, welfare, health; often with an emphasis on lack of strife or reconciliation in a relation, as when one has “peace with God.”* Often used as a verbal and written greeting. This word generally follows the meanings and usage of the Hebrew word 8934

(NIV Word Study Dictionary) H8934 שָׁלוֹם **šālôm**, *n.m. peace, safety, prosperity, well-being; intactness, wholeness; peace can have a focus of*

security, safety which can bring feelings of satisfaction, well-being, and contentment

The idea here is that this peace is much more than a lack of conflict on the outside. It is rather a sense of wholeness and well-being on the inside.

READER 2

Three big takeaways from this verse:

1. It is the peace of Christ

This is not a normal or worldly peace. This is the presence of the Prince of Peace with us in sometimes difficult or even dangerous situations.

- Someone once said, “Christ’s peace is not the absence of conflict but the presence of the Prince of Peace”

That makes this peace supernatural and completely disconnected from the logic of a situation.

Eg. Stephen was being martyred, yet experienced this supernatural peace.

Acts 7:55-56 (NIV)

55 But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 56 “Look,” he said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”

The Bible describes the supernaturalness of this type of peace:

Philippians 4:7 (NIV) “And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Clearly the peace of Christ is not understood or received from a worldly perspective. It is a gift from Jesus.

2. This peace of Christ should RULE in our hearts

Rulership is about government or lordship. The issue here is about who or what is given lordship of your heart.

- Just as Jesus warned that you cannot serve two masters - God and money*
- So your heart cannot be ruled by both peace and anxiety*

This is crucial for leaders to understand. For something to rule over us, we have to bow under it.

This is why the Bible tells us:

Romans 8:15 (NIV) *“The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.”*

We have to make a choice whether to allow our hearts to be ruled over by fear or to be ruled over by Christ's peace.

Sarah is a great example of this as Peter describes:

1 Peter 3:6 (NIV) “... like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her lord. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.”

READER 4

3. His peace needs to rule our HEARTS and not just our heads

What I have discovered as a pastor for more than 20 years is that most people make decisions with their hearts and emotions more than their logic.

What this means is that it is not enough to be convinced of something in your head. You need to submit to it in your heart.

Isaiah 9:7 (NIV 1984) "Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end."

I love this link between increasing government and increasing peace.

- *The more our hearts surrender to the government of the Prince of Peace*
- *The more that peace will increase and rule over our hearts*

The key here is that it is a heart issue

- *Our heads or minds need to be renewed and agree*
- *But our hearts need to submit and surrender*

LET THE PEACE OF CHRIST RULE IN YOUR HEARTS

READER 5

CHALLENGE:

Why is peace so crucial for a leader?

“15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace.”

For there to be unity there needs to be peace

- If you are wanting to lead a united team, a united organization, church or family*
- Then at the centre of unity is peace*

A leader who is at peace is a powerful force!

- To follow a leader whose heart is under the rulership of Christ's peace is a great blessing*

If you have fallen for the lie that peace will follow good circumstances then repent

- Peace follows those who follow the Prince of Peace*
- Your leadership influence will grow as your submission to His peace grows!*

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. Do you believe it is possible to be ruled by peace even when surrounded by conflict or confusion? Have you experienced it?

2. How is Christ's peace different from worldly peace?

3. Do you agree that the level of peace or lack of peace is an issue of rulership of the heart? What does that tell you about the state of rulership of your heart?

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>

