

## **General Leadership Principles**

Lesson designed by: Bob Turner

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### **Course description: General Leadership Principles Part 12**

This course focuses on the development of relationships. When talking about leadership, we must deal with relationships. This is the second and final lesson that examines the principle of relationships. These lessons take a scriptural look at relationships and discuss how leaders can improve in the area of relationship development.

#### **Course Objectives: By the end of the class students will have:**

- A. Discussed John Maxwell's three components to leaders and relationships.
- B. Listed a minimum of five ways we can understand people.
- C. Listed a minimum of five ways we can love people.
- D. Listed a minimum of five ways we can help people.
- E. Listed a minimum of five ways we can improve our relationships.

#### **Outline of the class:**

- A. John Maxwell's material on leaders and relationships identified three components.
  - 1. Have a leader's head – understand people
  - 2. Have a leader's heart – love people
  - 3. Have a leader's hand – help people
- B. Now, let's spend time discussing each of these areas and how we can develop each in our lives as leaders.
  - 1. Understand people. Ask the class to share ideas about how we can improve on understanding people. Make a list on the board. The ideas in this specific component were provided in Maxwell's book.
    - a. They like to feel special, so sincerely complement them.
    - b. They want a better tomorrow, so show them hope.
    - c. They desire direction, so navigate for them.
    - d. They are selfish, so speak to their needs first.
    - e. They get low emotionally, so encourage them.
    - f. They want success, so help them win.

2. Love people. Ask the class how we can demonstrate a love for people as leaders. Make a list on the board. A few suggestions are below.
  - a. Show preference to others. Put their needs above our own.
  - b. Show consistency in our actions with others.
  - c. Practice the “golden rule.” Treat others the way you want to be treated but treat them that way... first.
  - d. Pay attention to the “little” things.
  - e. Communicate in their “love” language. This is a good spot to identify Gary Chapman’s book *The Five Love Languages* and how they work. When we communicate to people in their love language, we demonstrate in the most powerful way that we love them.
    - i. Physical touch
    - ii. Quality time
    - iii. Gifts
    - iv. Acts of Service
    - v. Words of Affirmation
3. Help people. Ask the class how we can help people as leaders. Make a list on the board. A few suggestions are below.
  - a. Stop, Look, and Listen – Observe people and listen to what they say.
  - b. Do something nice...and if we can do it anonymously, all the better.
  - c. Show appreciation...publicly
  - d. Donate what you do not use
  - e. Consider what happens if you “don’t” help people.
  - f. DO NOT COMPLAIN – it is better not to help someone, then to help and complain about doing so. Remember Philippians 2:14.
- C. Divide the class into groups of four and ask each group to spend 5-10 minutes and list at least five ways we can improve relationships.
- D. Once they have completed the task, ask each group to share and make a list on the whiteboard of all the responses. The take away for us in this lesson is to consider ways we can improve relationships. Obviously, when we understand people, love them, and help them, we are taking great steps in this department. A few additional suggestions to add to anything missing from areas contributed by the class are listed below.

1. Decide to improve it! If we do not make a conscious decision to improve our relationships with others, then we never will. Make the decision.
2. Take the focus off of ourselves. We do tend to enjoy focusing on ourselves. If we will stop for a moment and think about others first, ask questions about what is going on in their lives, and listen to them intently, we can make a big difference.
3. Learn when to take a break. This is tough to discern. There are times when it is good to step back and take a break from “some” relationships, especially if those relationships are harming others.
4. Walk a mile in their shoes before judging. This is a given, but in order to sympathize or empathize in an effort to help others, we may have to spend a little time in their shoes. We’ve talked about ways we can do this in other lessons.
5. Acceptance. This is perhaps one of the most needed areas in people’s lives. They want acceptance. We all do. We want to fit in, to feel accepted, to know we belong. We need to remember that regardless of someone’s physical appearance, we are all made in the image of God. This is foundational to acceptance. We are NOT talking about accepting sin or sinful behavior.
6. Recognize that “being” right is not enough. This is also vitally important. Sometimes we work so hard to prove we are right, that we lose sight of the greater importance with regards to the relationship. Being right is not enough. We must remember that if we are right, but we lose a relationship, being right does not mean much.
7. Communicate. We will spend several lessons talking about this great principle. Without communication, relationships cannot succeed. We need to be open and transparent in our communication with one another.

Conclusion:

- A. One of the key areas to successful leadership is learning how to handle the relationships in our lives, whether at home, in the world, or at church.
- B. As challenging as relationships can be, if we remember the three components that make up these relationships and lead with a leader’s head, heart, and hand, we are taking the necessary steps toward solid relationships.
- C. When we know the areas that will help us improve our relationships with others, and implement these ideas, we lay the foundation for successful leadership.
- D. Next week, we will move into additional areas that demonstrate the principles leaders need to follow and employ in their leadership.

Recommending Reading:

Arbinger Institute. *Leadership and Self-Deception*

Arbinger Institute. *Anatomy of Peace*

Arbinger Institute. *The Outward Mindset*

Chapman, Gary. *Five Love Languages* (some copies relate to marriage, children, or just relationships in general, but they are all the same five)

Maxwell, John. *21 Indispensable Qualities of Leaders*