

## LOVE IS THE AGENDA

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Generosity that is unexpected, doesn't cost us, and/or is from an unknown person is treated as **suspicious**, even **dangerous**.

Love is the **AGENDA**, not a **STRATEGY**.

**1 CORINTHIANS 12:27-13:13** *Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? Now eagerly desire the greater gifts. And yet I will show you the most excellent way. 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. 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. 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. Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.*

Leadership is a **DESTINATION** of discipleship.

**MATTHEW 20:25-28** *Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your **slave**—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

In the way of Jesus, no one **ASCENDS** to leadership. We **DESCEND** into it.

We are vulnerable to overestimating \_\_\_\_\_ performance at the expense of love.

- Intellectual
- Moral
- Humanitarian
- Religious

Love is not **TRANSACTIONAL**.

Love is not **PRACTICAL**.

We don't love people because it **WORKS**.

Love doesn't ask if it worked. Love asks if **NEEDS** were **SERVED**.

Love isn't transactional. It is **TRANSFORMATIVE**.

Love isn't practical. It is **POWERFUL**.

**BOTTOM LINE:** Love doesn't always work. It does put us to **WORK**.

**2 CORINTHIANS 5:14-15** *For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.*