

Three Cords¹ Framework for Sustained Transformational Leadership

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*And David shepherded them with integrity of heart,
with skillful hands he led them. Psalms 78:72*

Three Cords cannot be easily broken approach from Ecclesiastes 4:12 focusing on three critical dimensions of transformational leadership: Leading Self from Within, Leading Others, Leading Teams & Organizations illustrated in Psalms 78:72². CBL's unique integration of corporate leadership best practices, biblical teaching on leadership, and ongoing spiritual growth will provide a transformative experience for each leader and their organization.

1. **Leading from within, through Christ-centered character – heart – one's spiritual formation**

- Who am I as a Christian and who am I as a leader?
- Is there integrity, alignment between what I believe as a Christian and how I show up and lead, especially during times of stress?
- Where is my identity, value, and worth? In the job, title and perks? Or in God's call on my life to lead for his Kingdom purposes and glory.
- If I can't lead myself effectively, I will not be a credible leader to others. If I am not growing in my relationship with Christ, being transformed into his image (II Corth 3:18), I will not be growing as a leader.
 - *Matt 7:16-18 - By their fruit you will recognize them. Grapes do not come from thorn bushes.*
 - *Mark 7:17-23 - It is not what goes in that defiles (spoils or dishonors) a person, but what comes out from within from a person's heart.*

2. **Leading others through community connectedness and relationships of belonging, service and support.**

- Starts with leading another. Who am I reaching out to establish a relationship of trust and influence?
- How self-aware am I? Am I, moving from self-deception to self-awareness? Do I understand how my leadership behaviors impact others? Am I being effective according to their experience of my leadership?
- How open am I to feedback? Am I willing to be vulnerable and authentic with those whom I seek to lead? Leading others is not effective without trust and trust cannot be established without vulnerability.
- Why and how am I leading others? Am I leading out of selfishness, pride and ego or to genuinely serve and build others up to succeed?
 - *Ephesians 4:11-12, 29 - Leaders are to equip and build others up to complete works of service – saying only that which build them up and benefits them according to their need not yours.*
 - *Matthew 20:24 –The gentiles exercise authority, lording power over those they lead. Not so with you. You must be servant to those you lead.*

3. **Leading strategically teams & organizations, with excellence in competence and capability.**

- While growing in my relationship with Christ and study of Scripture, am I also learning to lead effectively in order to achieve God's purposes in my business or organization as well as at home, and in the community?
- What can we learn from the correlation between the social sciences research on leadership best practices with biblical teachings and examples on leadership?
- What skills and abilities competencies of effective leadership, do I need to lead and scale large global enterprises. To go from being a good leader to a great leader that builds *great companies*³. One that not only achieves extraordinary results but develops other leaders who are equipped to achieve extraordinary results.
 - *These things which you have seen and heard me say – entrust to others who will teach others - II Timothy 2:2*
 - *And David shepherded them with integrity of heart; with skillful hands he led them. Psalms 78:72*

¹ Ecclesiastes 4:12 (NIV) "Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken." These three cords are illustrated in Psalm 78:72 – "integrity of heart": CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT / Leading from Within; "he shepherded [and lead] them": COMMUNITY; "with skillful hands he led": COMPETENCY.

² These 3 categories character, community and competency come from Dr. Sid Buzzell's writing on Psalm 78:70-72, January 2020.

³ Built to Last (1995) and Good to Great (2001), [Jim Collins](#)