

## Four Pillars of Leadership - Four "T"s 032 Transparent

### TRANSPARENCY – WHAT IS IT?

In the last session, we learned that being truthful is about what you say and do. Being transparent is about who you are. They are closely connected. Transparency is the twin sister of truth. Jesus was both truthful and totally transparent. He said, *"He who has seen me, has seen the Father."* (John 14:9)

The goal for transparency is to have nothing evil or offensive hidden that would stop others from seeing God in us.

***(Psalms 139:23-24 NLT) "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. {24} Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life."***

Look at a freshly cleaned sheet of glass or a glass of water. Look at the breeze. What do you see? Answer: nothing. The glass, the water and the air can so free of impurities that you look right through them. There are no impurities or pollutants. Nothing discolors or muddies their clarity. They are transparent.

Let's apply this idea to our lives as Christians.

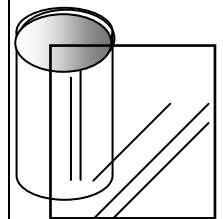
***(Philippians 1:9-10 NLT) "I pray that your love for each other will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in your knowledge and understanding. {10} For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until Christ returns."***

***(Verse 10 Paraphrased) "That way you will be able to determine what is best and be transparent until the day of Christ."***

To be transparent is to live pure and blameless lives (to the extent possible in our fallen human condition). Having born-again spirits helps us to do this.

### GUIDELINES

Transparency is realized when you work with the Holy Spirit to get rid of those things you have buried and hidden from others. It does



- 
- No distortions
  - No impurities
  - No pollutants
- Just transparent!  
It is pure!**

not mean you are obligated to show everybody everything that is going on inside of you.

If what is inside reveals sin from your past, or brings shame, it may not be God's will for everyone (or anyone) to see it. Bring it to God and leave it at the cross. If it uncovers someone else, do not show it. It is not your job to expose others. Always consider whether what you share will bring people closer to Christ and will glorify God.

## I. YOUR LIFE MUST BE PURE.

The Greek word most often translated as "pure" is "*katharos*." (kath-ar-os'; It simply means "*clean, clear, pure*.")

Another Greek word for pure is "*eilekrineis*" (i-lik-ree-nace'; "To discern by the light of the sun.")

- Think about that imagery. The bright, clear sun - no clouds, no darkness, nothing hidden. We saw that word used in Philippians 1:10 "*That you may be sincere and without offense.*" (It is also used in 2 Peter 3:1 as "*pure*")
- The imagery of this word suggests living a life so open and transparent that all who observe you will be aware of your moral integrity. Nothing darkens the view others have of you. What they see is what they will get! Now look at the New King James Version of Philippians 1:9-10.

***(Philippians 1:9-10 NKJV) "And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, {10} that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ,"***

Barnes Notes tell us, "The word "*sincere*" means literally without wax (*sine cera*); that is, honey which is pure and transparent without any honeycomb in it. Applied to Christian character, it means that which is not deceitful, ambiguous, hypocritical; that which is not mingled with error, worldliness, and sin; that which does not proceed from selfish and interested motives, and **where there is nothing disguised**. There is no more desirable appellation (label) that can be given to a man than to say that he is sincere - a sincere friend, benefactor, Christian; and there is nothing more lovely in the character of a Christian than sincerity. It implies:

- (1) that he is truly converted - that he has not assumed Christianity

as a mask;

- (2) that his motives are pure and not out of self-interest;
- (3) that his conduct is free from double-dealing, trick, and cunning;
- (4) that his words express the real sentiments of his heart;
- (5) that he is true to his word, and faithful to his promises; and,
- (6) that he is always what he professes to be. A sincere Christian would bear to have the light let in upon him always; to have the emotions of his heart seen; to be scanned everywhere, and at all times, by people, by angels, and by God.”<sup>1</sup>

A third Greek word for pure is *anaitios* (an-ah'-ee-tee-os; “To be “innocent,” “blameless,” or “without guilt”). A pure life is one lived in the light of moral integrity - in the light of openness before God and man. It is a life free from pollution or the desire to be polluted. It is transparent. (Greek from Strong’s Dictionary)

We often try to hide the truth behind the walls of fear. We fear what people might see. Transparency kills this fear, knocks down the walls and brings freedom to be who God designed you to be. This is because you have chosen to trust God and not try to hide, manipulate or sidestep the truth.

Can we live lives that are half-transparent and still please God?  
Can a half-polluted glass of water be pure?

1. To be half-pure is to be half-polluted.
2. To be half-polluted is the same as being fully polluted.
3. To be polluted is to be displeasing to God.

## II. YOUR LIFE MUST BE “BLAMELESS.”

***(Philippians 2:14-15 NKJV) “Do all things without complaining and disputing, {15} that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world”***

Transparency, when properly understood, means:

1. You are pure and blameless before God and others.
2. The way you live life does not hide things that could cause hurt, harm or disappointment.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://barnes.biblecommenter.com/philippians/1.htm> (Barnes' Notes on the Bible )

3. You live your life openly so that people can see right through you to Jesus. They encounter nothing dark or hidden in your personality, intentions, attitudes or actions.

### III. YOUR LIFE MUST BE UNCOMPROMISING.

It was sometime shortly after 605 BC. Jerusalem had been conquered and the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar had taken a number of young Hebrews into his palace to train them and utilize them in his government. Among these were Daniel and his friends.

*(Daniel 1:8 NKJV) "But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself."*

*(Daniel 1:8 - God's Word Translation) "Daniel made up his mind not to harm himself by eating the king's rich food and drinking the king's wine. So he asked the chief-of-staff for permission not to harm himself in this way."*



Daniel

### PURITY IS A DECISION NOT TO COMPROMISE!

Daniel made the decision to live free of compromise and be transparent with his life. If you compromise and allow things to pollute you, you will be polluted. Give them no place to hide.

**POINT 1. Only you can establish, maintain or destroy your own transparency.**

Daniel would not defile himself by destroying his purity. He chose transparency. What others saw would be what they got from him. Having this commitment and lifestyle never let him down!

**DANIEL 1:9-14 = Cause**

**DANIEL 1:15, 1:20 = Effect (or Results in Daniel's life)**

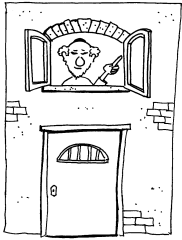
Daniel and his friends passed their test and it affected more than their outward appearance. What others saw reflected in their lives was ten times better than those who chose to compromise. Compromise will keep you from increasing in the things of God. Transparency is at least 10 times better for you!

## The Trap

Let's move the clock up now - about sixty-six years later (565 BC). Daniel has lived a life of transparency throughout all his years - in the good times and bad. No one has found fault in him. He has been a tremendous success in the kingdom. Many people resented his life of transparency and purity. There are people who will resent your decision to be transparent. They will be offended when you refuse to join them in their deceptions and ungodly behavior.

### DANIEL 6:4-7

Those who resented Daniel could find nothing for which they could blame him. He was blameless, did not harm others and was not evil or dishonesty. He was not self-serving or disloyal.



*(Daniel 6:10 NKJV) "Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days."*

Daniel hid nothing. He prayed in the sight of everyone. He would be faithful to God, no matter what the consequences might be. What they saw was what they got! It was Daniel's habit to trust God. It was his habit! He just put himself in God's hands. He did his part. God would do His part.

Daniel was consistently and continually transparent...  
He was clean before men and God!

**POINT 2. Transparency is a lifestyle in which we constantly and persistently trusting God.**

**POINT 3. Not everyone will like your transparency. It might cost you. It cost Daniel, but the reward was far greater than the cost.**



### DANIEL 6:16-22

**POINT 4. If you are transparent before God and men, you will be found innocent by God.**

Be more concerned with your character than with your reputation...because your character is who you really are, while your reputation is merely who others think you are. When your reputation is falsely threatened, your character will win the victory for you.

**POINT 5. If you are transparent before God and men, the men may find you guilty, but God will shut the Lion's mouth! (God's sovereignty will always prevail!)**

Truthful and transparent leaders are champions for Jesus.

