

THE CHARACTER OF A STEWARD

Mario Denton and Handré de Jongh



Mario is an industrial psychologist, international teacher and acts as visiting professor. He also has two counselling diplomas and two master's degrees, (M Econ and MBA) and completed his PhD as well as DBA in Organisational Behaviour and Business Administration. He has presented People Management practices 44 times consecutively to MBA students and trained about 2000 participants of which 300 MBA students in Emotional Intelligence. He is currently the Director of the Crown Marketplace Institute as well as the Director for FCCI (The Fellowship for Companies for Christ International)



Handré holds a BA in Theology as well as a Hons in Psychology. He served as a Pastor for 14 years and held the position of School Principal for 5 years prior to joining Crown in 2005 in a full time capacity. He currently serves as the National Director of Crown SA.

“I fall, I stand still ... I trudge on, I gain a little ... I get more eager and climb higher and begin to see the widening horizon. Every struggle is a victory.”

- Helen Keller

How to work through these radio talks

Purpose of these radio talks

Please note: This is only radio talks for self study and not to be released in any other format due to copy right restrictions.

Sources and Full acknowledgement:

Primary sources

The Power for true success: How to build character in your life

Secondary

Crown Stewardship material

The money devotional from Mark LLoydbottom

CBMC weekly notes and specifically the reflection notes

Biblical Principles for releasing Financial Provision by Frank Damazio and Rich Brott

The Treasure Principle by Randy Alcorn

11. DEFERENCE vs Rudeness

Afrikaans	Definisie	Alternatiewe
Eerbied vs. onbeskoftheid	Beperking van my vryheid sodat ek nie die gevoelens van diegene om my krenk nie.	Eerbied, ontsag, bereidwillig/heid, ontoegeeflik onbeleefd

Definition: Limiting my freedom so I do not offend the tastes of those around me

Definition

Meaning “to lead the way for others.” . Thus, as we defer to others, we experience the paradox spoken of by Jesus, “Whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all” (Mark 10:44). *En elkeen onder julle wat die eerste wil wees, moet julle lamal se dienaar wees.* Deference is making personal sacrifices in order to help others be successful and putting off words, attitudes, or actions that would cause others to be offended or weakened.

Genesis 13:8, 9 – Then Abram talked it over with Lot. “This arguing between our herdsmen has got to stop,” he said. “After all, we are close relatives! I’ll tell you what we’ll do. Take your choice of any section of the land you want, and we will separate. If you want that area over there, then I’ll stay here. If you want to stay in this area, then I’ll move on to another place.” Have you ever showed deference to someone by letting them make the first move? Abram let Lot take any section of land he wanted in order to save the peace between them. Showing deference is like being a peace-keeper; it prevents arguments and strife. After giving Lot first choice, God promised Abram all the land he could see in every direction. God’s promises are so much bigger than we think at first! Give someone else first choice, show deference and see how God will come through for you!

Examples of Deference

Scripture contains significant examples of those who demonstrated deference, and their testimonies provide precedents for parallel situations.

Deference to children

When the disciples asked Jesus, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” Jesus called a child to Him and set him in the midst of them. Then He said, “Verily I say unto you, Except

ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 18:1, 3).

Little children are expected to show deference to their parents and those around them. This humble deference is what Jesus praises: “Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 18:4). *Wie himself gering ag soos hierddie kindjie, hy is die belangrikste in die koninkryk van die hemel*

Deference to the Word

After Paul affirms the need to “give none offense, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God” (I Corinthians 10:32), he states his own commitment to deference: “Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved” (I Corinthians 10:33).

John Harper and his little daughter were passengers on the *Titanic*. When he realized the ship was sinking, he made sure his daughter was safe and then gave his life preserver to another. Fighting the frigid water, he used his last bit of strength to lead others to eternal life. *“Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.” —Revelation 2:10 Bly getrou tot die dood toe en Ek sal julle die lewe as kroon gee*

Paul explains how he demonstrated deference. “Though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. “And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law; To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law. “To the weak came I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. And this I do for the gospel’s sake” (I Corinthians 9:19–23).

God’s Mandate for Deference

Deference requires more than choosing to do things that are good. Deference requires that we choose things that are excellent, that we in no way hinder our own walk or the walks of others. “And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ” (Philippians 1:9–10).

Results of Failing to Show Deference

The lack of deference can be a major contributing factor to the failures of those who are weaker in their faith or more sensitive than we are. Because of a lack of deference by those who claim to be God's followers, many have turned against Him in bitterness. Therefore, if we are aware of anyone who has been offended by our lack of deference, we should go to that person, humble ourselves, ask for forgiveness, and then renew our commitment to show deference.

Personal Evaluation

How much deference do you show to others?

- Do you place stumbling blocks in the way of others by the things that you say, do, or wear?
- Do you have modesty and privacy in your home to protect your children from stirring up wrong desires?
- Do you protect your children from evil?
- Do you keep your home free from things that offend your children or cause them to struggle?
- Do you justify music or activities that offend or weaken fellow Christians?
- Do you offend people of other cultures, races, or ethnic groups by the words you use to describe them?
- Do you make allowances as much as you can to accommodate those from other backgrounds and philosophies?
- Do you understand and follow protocol when visiting another country?

Stewardship wisdom	
71	Here are only two ways to decrease expenses: Increase your income. Decrease your outgo
72	Many leaders fail toward the end of their life because: 1. they somehow dilute the original vision that drove them. 2. their success distorts them. 3. their weaknesses go unaddressed. Don't let this happen to you. While a good start helps, a good finish is up to you
73	Character is more than a talk. Anyone can say that he has integrity, but action is the real indicator of character. Your character determines who you are and what you do. That's why you can never separate a leader's character from his actions. If a leader's actions and intentions continually work against each other,

	look to his character to find out why
74	Talent is a gift, but character is a choice. We have no control over a lot of things in life. We don't get to choose our parents or the circumstances of our birth and upbringing. But we do choose our character. We create it each time we make choices.
75	Character brings lasting success with people. True leadership always involves others. Followers do not trust leaders whose character they know to be flawed and they will not continue to follow them.
76	Leaders cannot rise above the limitations of their character. Character will either limit or support a leader, depending on its strength. It will always determine whether a leader finishes well.
77	The power of a picture. We do on the outside what we picture inside

Dear Lord

Help me to remember that serving others does not mean I am of less value or weaker. Help me to remember that when serving and showing deference to others, I am being just like You. Thank You for being my example and giving Your life for me. I want to do the same. Forgive me for not being sensitive to children and how they perceive the world. Let Your Holy Spirit help me to refrain from doing or saying anything that would make them stumble in their faith. Make me a good role model for children, Lord. Amen.

Reflection/Discussion Questions

Do you take care not to let others stumble by your actions?

Do you serve others? Do you put others first?

Do you tempt others to do things that are not right? Or do you lead them in doing good?

Do you show deference to people of other countries, races, cultures and customs? G

12. DEPENDABILITY vs Inconsistency

Dependability is purposing in our hearts to do the will of God, whatever the cost.

Afrikaans	Definisie	Alternatiewe
Betroubaarheid vs. inkonsekwensie	Die uitvoering van dit waartoe ek ingestem het, selfs al beteken dit onverwagte opofferings.	Pligsgetrou Onvoorspelbaar, Onbetroubaarheid, wispelturig, onbestendig,

Definition

A dependable person is defined in Scripture as one who is faithful and it means also. “trustworthy, reliable, Paul was instructed to teach the Gospel to faithful men who would be able to teach others.

The Importance of Dependability

Every believer should want this quality to be evident in his life. It is one quality Jesus will use to evaluate our work for Him: “Well done, thou good and faithful servant” (Matthew 25:21). *Mooi so jy is 'n goeie en gtroue slaaf. Oor min was jy gterou, oor baie sal ek jou aanstel. Kom in en deel in my vreugde* It is also one quality that is required for God to entrust resources to us and the quality that will win a crown for eternity: “It is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful” (1 Corinthians 4:2). *Van bestuurder word veral vereis dat hy betroubaar moet wees.* “Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life” (Revelation 2:10).

Characteristics of Dependability

- **A dependable believer will be in harmony with the heart and mind of God.**

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts” (Isaiah 55:8–9).

- **A dependable person is faithful in little things as well as big things.** “He that is faithful

in that which is least is **faithful** also in much” (Luke 16:10).

- **A dependable person has a heart attitude of faithfulness.**

“[Thou] foundest his [Abraham’s] heart **faithful** before thee, and madest a covenant with him” (Nehemiah 9:8).

- **A dependable person keeps confidential information private.**

“A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a **faithful** spirit concealeth the matter” (Proverbs 11:13). ‘n Stad kry goeie naam wanneer opregte mense dirt prys, maar dit word afgebreek deur wat goddelose mense daarvan se

- **A dependable person communicates energy and health.** “A wicked messenger falleth into mischief: but a **faithful** ambassador is health” (Proverbs 13:17). Party mense hou hulle ryk maar het niks nie, party doen hulle arm voor maar besit baie

- **A dependable person is truthful in all that he says.** “A **faithful** witness will not lie, but a false witness will utter lies” (Proverbs 14:5). “*n betrobare getuie lieg nie ‘n vals getuie vertel een leun na die ander*”

- **A dependable person will not tell people how good he is.**

“Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a **faithful** man who can find?” (Proverbs 20:6).

- **A dependable person encourages those whom he serves.**

“As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, so is a **faithful** messenger to them that send him: for he refresheth the soul of his masters” (Proverbs 25:13).

- **A dependable person deals wisely with resources and relationships.** (See Luke 16:1–15.)

Rewards of Dependability

- **A dependable person will be given greater responsibilities.** Nehemiah gave Hanani and Hananiah,

- **A dependable person will receive special praise and honor from the Lord.** “Well done, good and **faithful** servant; thou hast been **faithful** over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord” (Matthew 25:23).

- **A dependable person will be protected by the Lord.** “O love the Lord, all ye his saints: for the Lord preserveth [guards, protects] the **faithful**” (Psalm 31:23).

- **A dependable person will abound with God’s blessings.**

“A **faithful** man shall abound with blessings: but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be

innocent” (Proverbs 28:20). ‘n betrobare man is baie voorspoedig een wat gou ryk wil word, sal sy straf kry

• **A dependable person will be given a crown of life.** “Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life” (Revelation 2:10).

The Motivation for Dependability

Dependability includes not failing the people who are counting on us. There are several factors that should motivate us to such dependability. The first and greatest motivation should be realizing that what we do to benefit others, we are actually doing for the Lord Jesus. The second motivation should be realizing that our service for others will be evaluated by the Lord when we stand before Him. “We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad” (II Corinthians 5:10). A third motivation should be the awareness of Christ’s imminent return. Jesus gave a parable to emphasize this point. “The Lord said, Who then is that **faithful** and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing” (Luke 12:42–43).

How dependable are you?

- When you give your word to do something, can others always count on you to do it, even if it is more difficult than you expected?
- If you experience unexpected difficulties, do you use them as excuses for not finishing a task?
- Do you picture the things you do for others as actually serving Jesus Christ?
- Can your service providers depend on you to pay your bills promptly?
- Can members of your family count on you to turn down other opportunities in order to be with them for special events?
- Can the Lord depend on you to make the wisest use of the resources He has entrusted to you?
- Do you graciously but firmly decline invitations that will distract you from fulfilling your responsibilities?

Stewardship wisdom	
78	Two little words that can make the difference: start now. Mary C. Crowley
79	Each one of us has a fire in our heart for something. It's our goal in life to find it and to keep it lit.-- Mary Lou Retton
80	Give us a <u>clear vision</u> that we may know where to stand and what to stand for, because unless we stand for something, we shall fall for anything. Peter Marshall
81	The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn and relearn Alvin Toffler
82	The creative process does not end with an idea; it starts with one Alex Osborn
84	Character is what you are in the dark
85	Kites rise highest against the wind, not with it.

Dear Lord

Help me to be there for my friends and to support them when they need me. I want to learn how to be a faithful Christlike friend and build relationships on a good foundation

Forgive me for the areas in my life in which I have not been faithful. Show me how to be faithful and help me to manage my time and resources better so that I can fulfil all my responsibilities efficiently. I want to be a good servant and enjoy the satisfaction of knowing that I have done what You required of me at the end of the day. Please be my Teacher, Lord. Amen.

Reflection/Discussion Questions

Are you reliable? Or are you like a toothache in the mouth, hampering others with your sloppiness?

Can your friends rely on you when they need your help and companionship? Do you help your friends out when they need you?

Are you faithful in handling your responsibilities at work and at home with your family?

Do you blow your own trumpet but fail to be faithful? Do your words match who you really are?