



JONATHAN LAMB

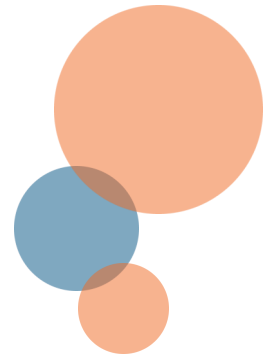
Dealing with Barriers to Godly Leadership

Jonathan is an author and Bible teacher, and the minister-at-large for Keswick Ministries. He previously worked amongst university students with UCCF, first in the west of England and then nationally. He spent several years as a pastor-teacher in a church in Exeter, before becoming the coordinator for student ministry in Eastern Europe & the Soviet Union during the Cold War period. He then became the European Director and then Associate General Secretary of the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students.

In 2002 he became the Director of Langham Preaching, working with a team around the world to establish training programmes for pastors and preachers in some 70 countries. He has also served as the CEO for Keswick Ministries. Today he is frequently involved in teaching and training events on behalf of these various agencies in different parts of the world.

He is the author of several books, including 'Integrity: leading with God watching', 'Preaching Matters: encountering the living God' and 'Essentially One: striving for the unity God loves' (IVP), looking at the challenges of maintaining unity in the context of difference and division within the Christian community. He has published several titles on Bible books, including 'From Why to Worship' (Habakkuk), 'Godliness from Head to Toe' (James), 'Faith in the Face of Danger' (Nehemiah), and 'Strength in Weakness' (2 Corinthians).

He is married to Margaret, and they live in Oxford and attend St Andrew's church. They have three children, and five grandchildren.



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BARRIERS TO GODLY LEADERSHIP

Schizophrenia – Living a Double Life

BASE PASSAGE: 1 THESSALONIANS 2:1-12

THEME

The dangers of inconsistency in Christian leadership, being one person in private and another in public. The importance of character and behaviour, words and deeds, belonging together. The need for the whole of life to be devoted to God.

'Set an example to the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. Watch your life and your doctrine closely.' (1 Timothy 4:12,15,16; Acts 20:28; 1 Corinthians 9:27)

1. The Gospel must be Embodied

1 Thessalonians 1:5 'Our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake.'

Jeremiah on the prophets: 'they live a lie' (Jeremiah 23:14)

Sharing our lives as well as the gospel (1 Thessalonians 2:6,7)

Max DePree: At the core of becoming a leader is the need always to connect one's voice and one's touch.'

Key Insights

BARRIERS TO GODLY LEADERSHIP

Schizophrenia – Living a Double Life

2. Ministry must be Modelled

1 Thessalonians 2:10-12 'You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed. For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.'

'Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.' (1 Corinthians 11:1)

'We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. Rather, as servants of God, we commend ourselves in every way.' (2 Corinthians 6:3)

Paul's exhortation: 'to live lives worthy of God.' (1 Thessalonians 2:11)

The ripple effects: 1 Thessalonians 1:5,6,8

The ripple effect in terms of modelling and emulating: 1 Thessalonians 1:6,7

1 Thessalonians 4:1 'Finally, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are doing. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more

Key Insights

BARRIERS TO GODLY LEADERSHIP

Malnutrition – Failing to be Nourished by God’s Word

BASE PASSAGE: 1 TIMOTHY 4:11-16

THEME

The danger of taking on leadership without the needed resources of feeding day by day on God’s Word. The need to listen to, absorb and obey the nourishing truth of God’s word. The importance of our minds, our lives, our leadership being shaped by Biblical values.

A **dynamic word** with a **dynamic purpose**: Isaiah 55:11; 1 Timothy 3:14-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:13

Ezra 7:10 ‘For Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the law of the Lord, and to teaching its decrees and laws to Israel.’

	EZRA 7:10	1 TIMOTHY 4:11-16
STUDY	devoted himself to study	vv6, 15, 16
LIVE	devoted himself to the observance of the law of the Lord	vv12,16 an example in speech, life... watch your life and doctrine
TEACH	teaching its decrees and laws to Israel	vv11,13 Command and teach Reading, preaching, teaching
GROW	devoted ...	v15 Be diligent; give yourself fully...

1. Study

Ezra ‘set his heart to study the law of God’ (Ezra 7:10).

Timothy: ‘nourished on the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed.’ (1 Timothy 4:16) See Joshua 1:8.

2. Live

Ezra devoted himself not just to study but to the observance of the law.

Paul to Timothy: ‘Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers...’ 1 Timothy 4:12

Key Insights

BARRIERS TO GODLY LEADERSHIP

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3. Teach

Ezra 7:10 ‘teaching its decrees to Israel.’

Timothy: ‘command and teach these things’ (v11)

‘Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of scripture, to preaching and to teaching.’ (v13)

4. Grow

Ezra 7:10 ‘he devoted himself to study and observance’...

Timothy: ‘Do not neglect your gift ... Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress... Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them...’ (1 Timothy 4:14-16)

The reason: ‘Persevere .. because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.’ (4:16)

Key Insights

BARRIERS TO GODLY LEADERSHIP

Heart Disease – Mixed Motives and Confused Priorities

BASE PASSAGE: LUKE 10:38-42

THEME

The danger of being distracted from wholehearted devotion to Christ. The distractions of work, of the world, or of sin. The importance of single minded devotion, clear motivation, priorities and vision.

Proverbs 4:23 'Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.'

1. Distraction Luke 10:40

a) distracted by work

b) distracted by our internal script

c) distracted by sin

'I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.' (2 Cor 11:3)

2. Devotion Luke 10:41

a) our devotion to Christ

b) our devotion to the gospel

Key Insights

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Heart Disease – Mixed Motives and Confused Priorities

3. Discipleship

Luke 12 35-38

'Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life' (Proverbs 4:23).

Let's do as Mary did: 'who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said' (Luke 10:39).

Key Insights

BARRIERS TO GODLY LEADERSHIP

Solitary Confinement – Isolation and Individualism

BASE PASSAGE: 2 TIMOTHY 4:9-22

THEME

The dangers of working in isolation, whether reflecting the individualism of our culture, or the false idea of leadership as the lone ranger. The need for friendship, support, accountability; the importance of teams, and the family of God.

The perils of isolation

The importance of team ministry

Paul's many fellow workers

1. Personal Support

Verse 11 'only **Luke** is with me'.

Verse 13 **Carpus** 'Bring the cloak I left with Carpus at Troas, and my scrolls, especially my parchments'

Verse 19 **Onesiporus**.

Verse 17 'When he was in Rome, he searched hard for me until he found me. You know very well in how many ways he helped me in Ephesus.'

2. Ministry Effectiveness

'As each part does its work' (Ephesians 4:16)

Verse 10 **Titus**

Key Insights

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Solitary Confinement – Isolation and Individualism

2 Corinthians 8:23 'As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker among you.'
Titus 1:5 'The reason I left you in Crete was that you might straighten out what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town as I directed you.'

Verse 12 **Tychichus**

'I sent Tychicus to Ephesus'

Verse 19 **Priscilla & Aquilla**

Verse 11 **Mark**

3. Responsible Accountability

Acts 14:26-28 '(Paul and Barnabas) sailed back to Antioch, where they had been committed to the grace of God for the work they had now completed. On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. And they stayed there a long time with the disciples.'

Personal and organisational accountability

Key Insights