



# CITY CHAPEL

## SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

### LEADERSHIP SCHOOL LESSON 4

#### EGO & SELF

##### INTRODUCTION

As we continue our journey of discovery into Kingdom Leadership dynamics and how to apply these to our lives, we come to a very important subject. The title of our discussion is SELF and EGO. So crucial is this matter that we will look at this over two lessons.

Once we crack this conundrum of SELF, we can then build on this foundational understanding, the other principles of practical applications of Leadership. Prepare yourself for some reflection and evaluation that could become challenging and uncomfortable!

##### THE CONCEPT OF EGO

Everyone, male, and female has an Ego. The dictionary definition is “the I or SELF of any person. The identification with self that thinks, feels and wills as distinct from others and the world both animate and non-animate.”

The part of one’s psychic apparatus that experiences and reacts to the outside world and thus mediates between the primitive inner drives and the demands or norms of the social and physical environment.

Ego is your I-ness, your YOU. The ME in You. Your sense of your own worth. Some synonyms are: \*Self-esteem, \*Self-confidence, \*Self-respect, \*Self-Image, \*Self-importance, \*Self-assurance.

According to the science of psychology, Ego exists in three levels:

- **Unconscious** – outside our awareness and memories
- **Pre-conscious** – knowledge and memories that can be retrieved.
- **Conscious** – Our current reality and awareness

Psychology splits our SELF into three, **Ego**, **Id** and **Superego**. Ego is our personality represented by our conscious decision-making process. Id is the primitive and instinctive biological component of our self. Superego is the moral and ideological element of our Self. Behaviour is thus determined by the dynamic interaction between these three components of our being.



# CITY CHAPEL

## SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

### BIBLICAL EXPRESSION OF EGO

But understand this, that in the last days dangerous times [of great stress and trouble] will come [difficult days that will be hard to bear].<sup>2</sup> For people will be **lovers of self** [narcissistic, self-focused], lovers of money [impelled by greed], boastful, arrogant, revellers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy *and* profane,<sup>3</sup> [and they will be] unloving [devoid of natural human affection, calloused and inhumane], irreconcilable, malicious gossips, devoid of self-control [intemperate, immoral], brutal, haters of good,<sup>4</sup> traitors, reckless, conceited, lovers of [sensual] pleasure rather than lovers of God,

**2 Timothy 3:1-4**

Now Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets [of Baal] with the sword.<sup>2</sup> Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me, and even more, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your <sup>[a]</sup>life like the life of one of them."<sup>3</sup> And Elijah was afraid and arose and ran for his life, and he came to <sup>[b]</sup>Beersheba which belongs to Judah, and he left his servant there.<sup>4</sup> But he himself travelled a day's journey into the wilderness, and he came and sat down under a juniper tree and asked [God] that he might die. He said, "It is enough; now, O LORD, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers."

**1 Kings 19:1-4**

"How you are fallen from heaven, O <sup>[d]</sup>Lucifer, son of the morning! *How* you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations!<sup>13</sup> For you have said in your heart:

'I will ascend into heaven,  
I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;  
I will also sit on the mount of the congregation  
On the farthest sides of the north;  
<sup>14</sup> I will ascend above the heights of the clouds,  
I will be like the Most High.'

**Isaiah 14:12-14**

<sup>4</sup> Then the serpent said to the woman, "**You** will not surely die. <sup>5</sup> For God knows that in the day **you** eat of it **your eyes** will be opened, and **you** will be like God, knowing good and evil."<sup>6</sup> So when the woman **saw** that the tree *was* good for food, that it *was* <sup>[a]</sup>pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make **one wise**, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.<sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves <sup>[b]</sup>coverings.

**Genesis 3:4-7**



# CITY CHAPEL SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

## EGO AND LEADERSHIP

There are many in authority who are **not** leaders and there are many Leaders who are not in authority. The fact that a person oversees people or is in power does not make them a leader.

The greatest enemy of leaders is their ego. This was what led to the fall of man in the beginning. Our inner desires which do not line up with our Maker's agenda has been our problem.

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, <sup>2</sup>“The teachers of religious law and the Pharisees are the official interpreters of the law of Moses.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>3</sup>So practice and obey whatever they tell you, but **don't follow** their example. For they don't practice what they teach.

**Matthew 23:1-3**

There are church leaders and Pastors who are in authority but are not leaders. Jesus says respect them but do not follow them.

## **SCRIPTURE TEST (1 Corinthians 13)**

Place yourself or your Pastor or leader in the blanks for a simple but quick test if a leader or not!

\_\_\_\_\_ endures with patience *and* serenity, \_\_\_\_\_ is kind *and* thoughtful and is not jealous *or* envious; \_\_\_\_\_ does not brag and is not proud *or* arrogant. \_\_\_\_\_ is not rude; \_\_\_\_\_ is not self-seeking, \_\_\_\_\_ is not provoked [nor overly sensitive and easily angered]; \_\_\_\_\_ does not take into account a wrong *endured*. \_\_\_\_\_ does not rejoice at injustice but rejoices with the truth [when right and truth prevail]. \_\_\_\_\_ bears all things [regardless of what comes], \_\_\_\_\_ believes all things [looking for the best in each one], \_\_\_\_\_ hopes all things [remaining steadfast during difficult times], \_\_\_\_\_ endures all things [without weakening].



CITY CHAPEL  
SCHOOL OF MINISTRY  
THE EGO CONUNDRUM

## ROMANS 7

<sup>14</sup> We know that the Law is spiritual, but I am *a creature* of the flesh [worldly, self-reliant—carnal and unspiritual], sold into slavery to sin [and serving under its control]. <sup>15</sup> For I do not understand my own actions [I am baffled and bewildered by them]. I do not practice what I want *to do*, but I am doing the very thing I hate [and yielding to my human nature, my worldliness—my sinful capacity].

<sup>16</sup> Now if I *habitually* do what I do not want to do, [that means] I agree with the Law, *confessing* that it is good (morally excellent). <sup>17</sup> So now [if that is the case, then] it is no longer I who do it [the disobedient thing which I despise], but the sin [nature] which lives in me. <sup>18</sup> For I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my flesh [my human nature, my worldliness—my sinful capacity]. For the willingness [to do good] is present in me, but the doing of good is not.

<sup>19</sup> For the good that I want to do, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want. <sup>20</sup> But if I am doing the very thing I do not want to do, I am no longer the one doing it [that is, it is not me that acts], but the sin [nature] which lives in me.

<sup>21</sup> So I find *it to be* the law [of my inner self], that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good. <sup>22</sup> For I joyfully delight in the law of God in my inner self [with my new nature], <sup>23</sup> but I see a different law *and* rule of action in the members of my body [in its appetites and desires], waging war against the law of my mind *and* subduing me and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is within my

members. <sup>24</sup> Wretched *and* miserable man that I am! Who will [rescue me and] set me free from this body of death [this corrupt, mortal existence]? <sup>25</sup> Thanks be to God [for my deliverance] through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind serve the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh [my human nature, my worldliness, my sinful capacity—I serve] the law of sin.

**HOMEWORK – Reflect on and read and meditate Romans 6, 7 and 8.**