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12 PRINCIPLES FOR GOSPEL-CENTERED LEADERSHIP  
New Book by Paul Tripp Addresses a Leadership Crisis in the Church

WHEATON, Ill.—Much attention has been focused on the stories of celebrity pastors who left their ministries amidst scandal, exposing the moral failings and abuses of power that can lurk behind the scenes of pastoral ministry. And lesser-known pastors are no exception. Hundreds of small church congregations and leadership teams have been left behind after losing their pastors, bewildered and wondering what went wrong. Does the church have a pastoral crisis?

In his new book, *Lead: 12 Gospel Principles for Leadership in the Church* (Crossway, September 2020), best-selling author Paul David Tripp argues that the issue the church is facing is not just with pastors, but rather a larger leadership crisis—a failure of leadership communities to value the gospel and its characteristics above all other aspects of their ministry. He writes, “The church is in desperate need of a leadership community whose function is not just structured to achieve with efficiency but is more deeply shaped by the comforts and calls of the gospel of Jesus Christ.”

With this need in mind, Tripp focuses on “the specific call of the gospel on the way we think about leadership.” He introduces twelve principles for leaders as they navigate the challenging relational waters of ministry:

1. Achievement  
2. Gospel  
3. Limits  
4. Balance  
5. Character  
6. War  
7. Servants  
8. Candor  
9. Identity  
10. Restoration  
11. Longevity  
12. Presence

In *Lead*, Tripp draws on years of ministry and counseling experience to show what can happen when leadership communities lose focus on gospel values. Throughout each chapter, he asks questions that will help church leadership teams consider and identify possible weaknesses within their own communities.

Dave Harvey, president of the Great Commission Collective, writes, “Wow. I had no idea that reviewing this book would become so very personal, so penetrating—an experience of leadership surgery that sliced my soul open with conviction and then sutured it shut with grace. Tripp is among the few...”

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who have the experience, stature, transparency, and clarity to call church leaders back to the urgency of gospel transformation in ministry. May God give me, and all of us, ears to hear... and enough courageous humility to apply!

_Lead_ serves as a follow-up to Tripp's previous book _Dangerous Calling: Confronting the Unique Challenges of Pastoral Ministry_ (Crossway, 2012), which addresses the unique temptations faced by pastors.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

**Paul David Tripp** (DMin, Westminster Theological Seminary) is a pastor, author, and international conference speaker. He is also the president of Paul Tripp Ministries. He is the author of several best-selling books, including _Dangerous Calling_; _Parenting_; and _New Morning Mercies._

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