

# BOOK OF THE MONTH | OCTOBER 2026

## Agape Leadership – Robert L. Peterson & Alexander Strauch

R.C. Chapman and this amazing short little book have played a critical role in the life of Grace Bible Church and Gilbert Bible Church. Nearly 20 years ago, Tom Angstead led the elders at Grace and many who would become elders, deacons and missionaries through these 13 short chapters. As soon as Gilbert Bible Church was planted, the elders and their wives began reading through this book together. This summer, I read through this book again with the young men in my home and it is always such a blessing to look at this life of a sinner saved by grace who sought to honor the Lord as he navigated the years that were given to him.

R.C. Chapman lived from 1803 to 1902. He is remembered because of how he exemplified the love of Christ in his personal life, use of his home in ministry, leadership of his church, and commitment to missions. The reality of God's reconciling love in the gospel

and the dramatic effect that must have on our lives lived in this world permeated every part of Chapman's life. Spurgeon remembered him as "the saintliest man I ever knew." His life was thoroughly changed by and lived for his Savior.

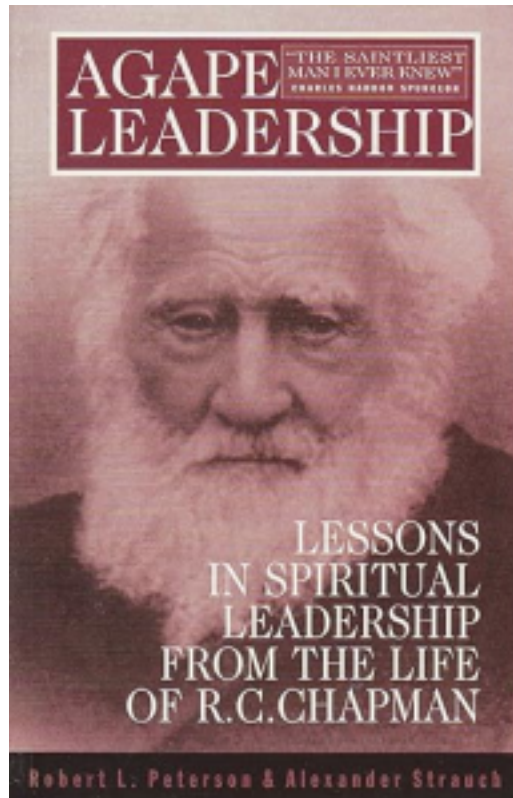
Alexander Strauch has taken the content from a biography written by Robert Peterson and distilled it down into 13 short chapters. Each chapter is a topical summary of the way that Chapman's exemplary life demonstrated godliness and encouraged others toward similar godly faithfulness. While he lived, Chapman's humility, love, dependence on God's Word, love for and trust in Christ, evangelistic zeal, self-discipline, and prayerfulness were contagious.

Each chapter is short enough to be read easily in one sitting. Strauch helpfully includes Bible verses for meditation at the end of each chapter. I strongly recommend you set aside the whole month to read this book slowly—one chapter at a time—with time for reflection, discussion, and focused application. So much of Chapman's life is so easily emulatable. Every time that I have read this, I am convicted about how I need to grow in holiness and love for others. His life is inspiring in the little things: the consistency of discipline, long-suffering forgiveness, constancy of prayer, faithful dependence on the Lord, a lifetime of reading and obeying God's Word...just a simple, exemplary Christian life.

Reading of his life and example, we agreed with the response that one missionary and preacher who traveled with him expressed after spending some days with him: "A great change already began to pass through my mind as to the one who was my traveling companion, and instead of feeling my own importance as a great and accomplished traveler, I felt more as a child compared with him."

Please consider reading Agape Leadership! I am praying that our body would be characterized by this same love for Christ and a similar commitment to honor him with how we live in the days He has given us.

Grace,  
Tyler



### Suggested One-Month Plan (3 pages per day)

Week 1: Monday, Oct 5th - Sunday, Oct 11th

Preface – 2 pages

Agape Leadership – 6 pages

Spirit-controlled Character – 7 pages

Week 2 : Monday, Oct 12th - Sunday, Oct 18th

Being Patient and Gentle – 6 pages

Maintaining Unity – 6 pages

Discipling and Reconciling – 5 pages

Week 3: Monday, Oct 19th - Sunday, Oct 25th

Forgiving and Blessing Others – 3 pages

Hospitality – 5 pages

Giving to the Needy – 5 pages

Working Together in Love – 6 pages

Week 4: Monday, Oct 27th - Sunday, Nov 1st

Vision and Evangelism – 8 pages

Self-discipline – 4 pages