



On Being a Good Leader

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To build a successful business, you need to develop, encourage, empower and train good leaders. Character, integrity and attitude must be encouraged – and not just in the ownership group, but in the field, on the phones, waiting tables or at the grill.

Leadership is not about a 'position' or a title. Many of us have seen the son, daughter or nephew come in and get a Vice President title. That title did not make them a leader (sometimes it has just the opposite effect and makes them a running gag.) [CUTHERE]

Leadership brings with it an obligation. Mistakes are amplified; people can get hurt. Leaders need to accept that. Leaders need to see the vision, plot a course and get the group to work towards the goals.

Funny thing is that you can get help. There are plenty of good people, who are willing and able to work for a good cause or for good leaders.

A good leader can turn a business into more than dollars and sense. They can bring compassion, understanding, change and vision to the business. They can make the business count – not in terms of size and profits – but in terms of community and impact. Below are some traits of a good leader – and no, you do not have to have all of them and excel in all of them, but you need to understand, your strengths and weaknesses and plan your approach accordingly.

- Discipline: Strong work ethic; strong moral compass; doing it consistently and setting an example
- Attitude: A fierce resolve to act – embracing change; fighting bureaucracy, politics and complacency; taking ownership and responsibility.
- Truth: Emphasize the realities at management meetings and focus on what can be improved. While celebrating successes and small victories, the eye is always on the big picture and the greater goals.
- Honesty: Sharing the right information, with the right people, so that the right decisions can be made it critical. Good, bad and ugly – then an appropriate discussion can be had on how to make things better.

- Team: Together Everyone Achieves More can be a cliché – but that does not make it any less important and impactful. Team building is critical.
- Fair: Successful leaders are inherently fair. They better be, because they are constantly being judged. They do not have to be liked or popular – but they do need to be seen as sincere and well intentioned and that means they need to be seen as fair!
- Fun: Successful leaders should be viewed as fun – not all the time, but when the time is right. So if you want to lead, you better be prepared to smile; to share that smile and to make those around you smile too! That smile can be worth a million bucks (or more)!

The above list is not comprehensive. The above list is not mandatory. I have known great leaders that did not have all of these traits, all of the time. Our inspiration should not come from the masses – be wary of politicians and sporting heroes – in the game of life and business a different set of tools are needed. Look for how these ‘leaders’ treat the people that are seemingly unimportant to them to see what their attitude to life is all about. If they can handle the little things with class and good humor they are much more likely to handle the stress and crisis that a leader sometimes needs to deal with. Visit our [LinkedIn](#) page and build the network for our future projects. Visit our [Facebook](#) page and share your ideas!

From the desk of Andre M.

To your success!