

TIPS ON LEADERSHIP

By Conrad Barrett

It has been said that less than 10% of the population of the world are leaders. That, if true, means that most people are followers and if this percentage is correct then those who attend church are probably within this ratio as well. Just what makes one person a leader while another becomes a follower? Hopefully, this brochure will point out some specific characteristics which will be helpful in understanding those differences.

Certain traits found in leaders may be inherited, but most are learned. The world is replete with examples of leadership – some good and some bad. The church world, too, has many good and bad examples. Just what are those special traits that distinguish a leader from a follower and how can one be enhanced in the position of leadership? Following are tips that can be helpful to the person who wants to be a better leader.

TRAITS OF GOOD LEADERSHIP:

1. Always prepare for the occasion. Never leave things to develop on their own. Prepare for contingencies, too.
2. Always arrive early, never late, and never “just on time”. A good example is made by punctuality. The caboose should never arrive before the engine.
3. Always dress for the occasion. Improper dress can set a good or bad example. For instance, never show up at a swimming party in a necktie and never show up for church in a swimsuit. A good question to ask about dress is “What would Jesus wear?”
4. Always have a prepared heart and mind for whatever is to be done. Nothing is more noticeable and annoying to an audience than for a speaker or teacher not to know the subject matter and as a result just ramble. Being loud or doing floor pacing is a very poor cover-up for lack of preparation. Study! Study! Study! It is very important.
5. Always have a pleasant look and a smile if possible. Facial expressions are like other body language expressions. People form opinions by what they see and hear. Give them a good one.

6. Always listen and watch. We can learn things when we listen and watch. One never learns anything new while talking. Observation is a good policy.
7. Always be part of the whole. To be a good leader one must be a good follower, too, and will participate with others for the benefit of the group. No person is an island to himself/herself and good leadership must be properly coordinated with good “fellowship”.
8. Always understand the difference between being a leader and in being a director. A director uses what and whom he has at hand and seldom reaches beyond. A leader uses what he has at hand and reaches beyond to recruit and build. Many times a group dies socially and spiritually because there is no vision to reach beyond perimeters to embrace others. Leadership looks at what is and is grateful, but looks beyond what is and asks “why not others”? He/she becomes a builder. The director just arranges or rearranges what is at hand.
9. Always is kind and considerate of others. Never create an atmosphere where others are ill at ease. Is never divisive nor destructive.
10. Always take responsibility for your actions and never blame others for failures.
11. Always approach work with enthusiasm and sincerity. People are heart readers and seem to know whenever something is real or just zeal.
12. Always be the best that is possible and be consistent. Let faithfulness and integrity be a definite part of the action. People like the truth, as well as honesty, proficiency and caring. There is no substitute for these.
13. Always state your objective and state it well. Be as clear as possible in relating the details of the objective. People appreciate clarity so say it and say it well.
14. Always be courageous, decisive, and dependable. Take the initiative and do whatever you do with tact and justice. Remember, there are no rules for success that work unless you do. Never give up too soon; never give up at all. Victory comes to those who persevere so “stay in the buggy”.
15. Always be conscious of who is not in attendance in a meeting. Find out “why”? Remember, the “lost sheep” may be among the missing. Jesus addressed this issue.

If you are in a position of leadership, I trust this brochure will help you. If you are not presently in leadership, but would like to be, I believe these 15 tips will help. Please understand the difference between being a leader, a director, a coordinator, or a manager. A good leader is one who wants and sincerely seeks to help others become their very best in whatever area of leadership or “fellowship” in which they may serve. The confidence and trust we need to be our very best is found in God who is the greatest leader of all.

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