

topic

The Character Of A Good Leader

When the United States trembled on September 11, 2001, all hearts and minds were of one accord. For a moment, we actually came together in brotherly love. Everyone seemed to obey the commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Months later, the reality has set in, and we are working toward brighter days... does that love still abide? Are we seriously looking at ourselves and how we relate to our peers and our subordinates? If you are perfect, you will not need to make any adjustments, but who is perfect?

In today's workplace, if we are to operate effectively and be effective leaders, we must take a serious look at the human side of our management style. We must also work on building good character. Dear Abby once said that the best index to a person's character is how he treats people who can't do him any good and how he treats people who can't fight back.

We should first have respect, respect for ourselves as well as for the people with whom we work. When we respect ourselves, respecting others will come easy. Many times we tend to respect our superiors and have little or no respect for our subordinates. But we should respect all persons, regardless of where they appear in the organizational structure. We should never look down on a person unless we are extending a help-

ing hand to bring him/her up to another level.

Good leaders are strong and at the same time they are caring, compassionate, kind and forgiving individuals. We cannot have inner peace until we show compassion for our fellow man and have a forgiving heart. The development of a strong, productive leader begins with being able to forgive those who use and abuse you.



Hazel Reese
President Beet

A good leader should be a person of virtue, one who displays good citizenship and has a conscience. Leaders must have respect for policies and procedures. We should listen to our employees. Good ideas don't originate from within a certain group of people but can come from anyone. Listen to your conscience, it will most times condemn you. Leaders are creative, have a vivid imagination and possess good problem-solving techniques. Einstein once said that you can never solve a problem on the level on which it was created; therefore, we must be imaginative and creative in our thinking. When making decisions to solve problems, we must be fair by taking all points into consideration.

Good leaders should be courageous. They may be afraid to take that plunge or afraid to step out of their little box but they should try anyway. We should never display a spirit of fear. God didn't give us one. If it is something you fear, you should keep trying until you accomplish the task

(continued on page 19)

EXECUTIVE CORNER

(continued from page 2)

or keep trying until you get it right. Don't hide from problems because they only end up finding you anyway. Approach a problem with confidence.

Leaders should be **self-disciplined**, because ~~before we can discipline our~~ **discipline our** ~~ourselves~~ **ourselves**. Self control is another attribute of a good leader. We should control our speech as well as our actions.

Effective leaders are trustworthy, honest **and** truthful. When *you* are truthful and honest many times you are the most unpopular person in the organization. Individuals seem not to want to hear the truth, they seem to be afraid of it. Leaders should be loyal to the organization. We have a responsibility to support the organization's mission and to provide good sound leadership for its employees. We should keep politics out of our departments and strive to keep lines of communication open. We should never

treat our equipment better than we do our employees. Good character will allow your organization to grow and be productive. There is no place for an over inflated ego in an organization. Always show appreciation and love.

E Listen & Listen—A leader must listen to your superiors, your employees and your customers. A leader should have a sense of humor.

E Empower—A leader must empower his employees with training, equipment, supplies and rewards.

A Articulate—A leader will articulate the vision and share the goals and the mission).

D Dedication—A leader must be willing to work smart and hard. He should make his intentions and his actions match.

E Example—A leader should set the example, he should be worthy of respect and he should be honest.

R Risk—A leader must be willing to take risks, and be respectful.

OBITUARY

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