

WHAT IS LEADERSHIP ?

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Leadership is the ability to inspire others to follow and change the future. Its basic ingredients are integrity, vision, courage and loyalty to one's principles. The ability to lead is an innate quality that few people possess. In general, leaders who leave the most memorable record are those who are highly ethical, and do not practice in the mode that lofty ends justify all means.

While some men and women are born with the ability to lead and inspire, they are rare. However, most people can learn how to lead.

Here are a few of the basic rules. Do not strive to be loved. Go for respect and loyalty. Do not show your feelings in public except to inspire, and above all do not shout, or even worse, cry, unless you have planned it in cold blood.

Have genuine affection for your associates, feel profound loyalty for them. Pretending shows. Be a role model of hard work and modesty. Do not ask associates to work harder or longer than you do. Promise less than you deliver. Be approachable. Be generous with distributing titles, but make them meaningful. Delegate, but supervise. The leader is solely responsible for failures but should always share with associates credit for successes. Your time is the most precious resource that you have, budget it carefully and always prioritize. Allow time between meetings to think and reorganize. Women executives need to follow a few additional rules, some of which regrettably reflect our society's prejudices, and some result from physiologic gender differences. However the world is changing and the playing field is getting more even. When you read today about a woman being given a top position, the gender is not even mentioned. A picture with her name suffices.