

TEN DOMINANT QUALITIES OF A LEADER

There are many qualities or characteristics that are found in a leader, but I have consistently found that there are ten dominant qualities or characteristics.

VISION/PURPOSE

The God that we serve is a God of plan, purpose, design and objectivity. I'm going to incorporate the word **purpose**, because I believe that we have to associate purpose with vision either personal or corporate. A leader has a vision or a purpose for getting out of bed, for working all night long, for getting up early, for not being tired, for not getting sick. They have a purpose for staying healthy and keep going no matter what! They have a vision, a purpose!

Studies have found those leaders with these dominant qualities, and particularly those with strong vision. They get tired or bored less than any other person in the team (*if the vision is corporate one like we have in our different ministries*). That goes right along with scripture. Proverbs says that without a vision you'll get sick along the way and you'll perish. But with a vision, you don't have time to stand aside, you don't have time to be tired. You've got things to do, places to go, people to see. *You've got a purpose.*

COMMITMENT

Another word we could use here is persistence. A leader endures, sticks to it, and won't quit. Leaders face things with full force and wouldn't even think about giving up. They listen to the voice of their Spirit or conscience. If the going gets tough and it is too hard to break, they know that the tough gets going. With a leader, there is no such thing as failure. There is no way that this thing can stop because we are committed and that is the vision. We're going to

succeed and we are not going to quit no matter what others may be doing to frustrate us. This is the quality of leaders.

SELF-AWARENESS

Leaders know their own strengths and weaknesses. They know themselves. Knowing oneself is so important. If you know your strengths, you will keep yourself focused on those things. If you know your weaknesses, you'll keep other people focused there. By not knowing yourself, you'll try to do things that you can't do and you'll take on things you shouldn't be taking on. Leaders know themselves. They are quick to say, *"I can't do that! Someone else will have to do that because I know they'll do it better."*

CHANGE ORIENTED

Wise leaders are willing to change. While they are committed to go all the way through, once the horse dies, they are quick to get off! There are a lot of leaders sitting around on dead horses. The poor thing died years ago and they are still whipping that horse, trying to get it to go. Leaders are quick to change, they are willing to change.

ENJOYS WORK

A leader is not *"suffering through."* He's not doing what he has to do. Leaders with vision do what they want/plan to do, while those without vision do what they have/must to do. Leaders with vision want to stay all night in prayer while those without struggle to pray only at night. Leaders enjoy what they are doing, and they don't do it because they need to, or have to. They have a desire to do what they are doing and really like it.

ATTRACTS OTHERS

Leaders attract others. They make people feel like they would like to be involved with them. One area that is a particularly good example of this is the music ministry. You have leaders in this field that, when they play or sing, everybody who hears them says, *“I’d like to play a song like that.”* They are attracted to it and they want to do it! Have you ever listened to someone sing and then said, “You know, I think I’m going to start developing my singing ability. I want to be more involved with singing.” Why would you feel that way? Because you feel attracted to the leadership of that music ministry *(But never to try to destroy the mentor)*.

WALKS BY FAITH

In modern terms, we could say that leaders are willing to take risks. They are willing to take risks. They are willing to step out and try something new, something that’s maybe not a sure deal, but reasonable. They are leaders! They are out on the point where no one has walked before, blazing new trails, and stepping into new realms. Leaders will use faith and initiate constructive moves. Think of the faith of a leader like Dr. Paul Yonggi Cho, who built a 20,000 seat building in Korea. What a risk. He will either go down in history as the greatest pastor or the biggest fool that ever lived. But he is a leader. He had the faith, he took the risk, and he is successful.

GIVES

Leaders are not in it for themselves. They are not concerned with what they get out of it; they are more concerned with the fulfillment of the *vision (personal or corporate)*. They are more excited about reaching the goal, and accomplishing their plan; their own personal benefit becomes secondary.

RELATES WELL

Relationship is based on communication. If you don't communicate you can't relate. Leaders are aware of people. They know how to relate to different people, in different levels. That's why he can lead, because he can relate to those he's leading. He may not be poor, but he can relate to the poor person. He may not be from the same tribe or city, but he can relate to the others from different tribes or cities.

USE MISTAKES

Temptation makes us choose between God or the devil. However, leaders aren't afraid of making mistakes, they just use them. They use their Mistakes to learn from, and to improve. They use their mistakes to make proper adjustments and move on toward the vision and fulfilment of their goal. You may not be able to change where you have been but you can determine where you are going. Nevertheless, your mistakes are not the issue, but what you learn from them is. Built into every painful experience is the wisdom to build a better future. Don't let your past rob you of your future.

Dear brethren, I implore you to spend some time examining yourself in relation to the role that you are playing in your Church / Ministry and meditating on these ten leadership qualities. As you'll find your strong areas, you would also find your weak areas that should be adjusted. If it is your wish to have that which is yours, one bitter truth about it is that, if you have not proved faithful with what is another man's (*whatsoever*) God will not give you what is your own or reward you for anything you may think you are doing in the body. Seek for ways to make changes and you'll begin to produce greater results for the Lord and confidence for your future.