

What is a Leader?

Introduction

Alma 54:14 Moroni – “I am a leader”

Alma 48:17 If all men were like Moroni...

In the church, we are all followers and leaders. Before we can become a great leader, we must first learn to be a great follower.

What are the characteristics of great leaders in the church?

Vision of the work (Proverbs 29:18)

Elder Vaughn J. Featherstone: *“Where there is no vision, the people perish, but they also do not perform. They have no heart for the work and will inevitably impair rather than assist. Similarly, a leader with no vision will dramatically limit his effectiveness.”*

Those who have vision...

- See what is possible
- See the total work before them
- They visualize what must happen in order to get the results they desire
- They consider all of their resources, potentials, and capabilities together
- They see in their mind what marvelous and magnificent things could happen when the total work force is mobilized unitedly
- They then go to work to accomplish their goal
- They have the ability to communicate their vision to those around them in a convincing way so that others are enlisted also
- They depend on the Lord’s help for their success
- They see what they are doing as a cause, not a project

The Leader must be exemplary

- Example is in all we do – he is constant and uncompromising

Other attributes of leaders

- He puts the talents of everyone to good use to accomplish the cause
- He lifts all who are near him

Servant Leadership

Vaughn J. Featherstone:

“Those who have the greatest impact on our lives are those who use their leadership roles to serve. Those who are selfish, arrogant, or prideful are loathe to serve but quick to seize power. They love control, domination, and obedience by compulsion.

“Servant leadership is based on a profound respect for the children of men. It requires leadership traits that do not demean, debase, or otherwise cause those we lead to feel inferior. Servant leadership lifts, blesses, and changes lives in a positive way...

“Servant leaders exercise the following traits and practices in their roles. They:

- Understand the value of every human soul
- Have an inborn or developed sense of caring for others
- Are quick to volunteer to take pressure off someone else
- Rush to the aid of someone who is going through an embarrassing or humiliating experience
- Treat all people on a basis of equality
- Do not feel that tasks they expect others to do are too demeaning for themselves
- Are not offended by disruptions of people who are themselves going through emotional traumas or stress
- Expect more from themselves than they do from anyone else
- Are quick to compliment, give credit, and build up those who perform a given task
- Judge people by their potential, not necessarily by one single negative experience
- Do not take credit for someone else’s achievements and love to share credit for any of their own accomplishments
- Get the facts before finding fault or criticizing another person
- Help all people feel they had a real part in the success of a project
- Detest practical jokes or statements that focus humiliation or attention on one soul
- Always constructively criticize in private and compliment in public
- Are absolutely honest in their work
- Are equally fair with all under their direction
- Are always willing to listen to both sides of a quarrel, discussion, or issue
- Make themselves accessible to all, not just those with position or power
- Understand the uniqueness and individualism of each person

True servant-leaders do not need a checklist of these character traits for they live them daily

Who are we?

D&C 18:10 Remember that the worth of souls is great...

LDS View of Human Nature	World’s View of Human Nature
Children of God Potential to become like Him Discern right from wrong Free to choose Accountable for our choices Man is that he might have joy	Man is a biological creation – no spirit Not accountable

? How does our knowledge of who we are and what we can become change how we act as leaders?

? If a company was to plan an activity with their employees, how would their plans be different from those a branch or ward might make for a similar activity?

Leaders should follow the Golden Rule

Matt 7:12 Do unto others as you would have them do unto you

Characteristics

Characteristics of Leaders who live G.R.	Characteristics of Leaders who do NOT
See people and tasks in a larger context	People are objects or resources to get things done / make them look good
Lift others	They must always be higher than others
Do not compete for dominance, position	Dominating
Praise the people they serve and the tasks they accomplish	Manipulative
Develop a greater ability and desire to serve others	Little care for the other person & their needs
Care for the other person and their needs	