

The Little Book of Big Leadership Principles

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21 Principles that can help you
become a better leader right
now.



Other's First

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Put Others needs ahead of your own. You can see this principle really quick if you are married. Put your spouses needs first and your have a much better chance of getting fulfilled than if you are asking to have yours fulfilled. It works in business and life as well. Do your best to meet others needs and put them ahead of your own.



Kill Your Ego

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You can accomplish much if you don't care who gets the credit.

-President Ronald Reagan

Click for Ronald Reagan Servant Leader Illustration



Own it All!

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If you have an excuse get rid of it right now! It's not fun to be around whiners and it doesn't get you any closer to a resolution. Whatever situation you find yourself in fully own every area possible.



Know Yourself

Becoming Self aware will help you in every area of your life. What do you do best? What are you passionate about? Who have you been created to be? What good works are you hear on the planet to do?

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Best Leadership Question Ever!

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In the time that you have known me...what do I believe about you?

Ask it to those around you.

No matter what, Don't be defensive.



Feedback = Gift

When someone offers you feedback they are offering you a gift. Receive it graciously and apply the 1% rule. Probably at least 1% of what they are saying is true and you can grow from it.

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Be Humble

The farther you go in leadership the more opportunities you have to be proud. Stay humble and you will continue to learn and grow your whole life long.

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Be Bold In Vision and...

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When dreaming think big, be bold, enlarge your vision.

“Dream no small dreams for they have no power to move the hearts of men.”

-Johann Wolfgang von Goethe.



...Careful in Planning

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It's easy for those who have bold visions to not be too careful in planning. If you have a big vision you need to carefully plan your path to get there. If you are a dreamer and not a planner pull someone into your life to help you plan well. Even if your plan has to change as you go down the road your better off with a solid plan to get your started.



Don't Bonk

Moral failures bring down so many leaders, cause pain and heartache and leave followers feeling hurt. Make a commitment to have integrity in all situations so that there is never an opportunity for slander to stick to you.

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Rest

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Make sure that you are taking the time you are getting the breaks and rest that you need. Often when stuck on a problem taking a few minutes away will allow your mind to come up with the solution that you need.

Also leaders need extended times of rest from time to time if they are to finish strong.



...but Don't Coast

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It's easy at times to start to coast. Many leaders start to plateau in their late 30's and 40's because they have worked hard and gotten to a point of privilege and responsibility. It's easy to get busy working and not continue to grow. Some of the best parents I know are still working on becoming better parents even as their kids are heading out the door for college (or already there)!



Encourage

A leader can never forget the weight of his impact on the team. In every situation a leader should be looking to encourage others.

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Give it all away (Credit that is)

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When you give credit away it multiplies. When you take it for yourself it divides. Nothing is worse than a leader taking credit for the things that a good team has done. Nothing encourages a good team more than giving credit where it is due.



Accept it all (Blame for failures)

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General Dwight D. Eisenhower penned a note accepting full responsibility for the failure of D-Day should it have failed. Senator John McCain accepted full responsibility for his loss in the 2008 Presidential election.

The leader needs to be the person accepting blame if any is due and deflecting it from the team.



Important List 1

Make a careful list of things done to you that you abhorred. Don't do them to others, ever. -
Dee Hock

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Important List 2

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Make another list of things done for you that you loved. Do them for others, always. -Dee Hock.



Believe in Others

Often people will rise or sink to our level of belief in them. Believe in others and express your belief in them and you will see people grow to reach new heights.

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80/20 Rule

What you spend your time on counts. 80% of your results generally come from 20% of your time. Focus more of your time, energy and actions on the 20% of things that will bring you the greatest return in every area of your life.

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Be Strong

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To Be Strong you need to know what makes you strong and what make you weak. Create a list of things that strengthen you and things that weaken you. As much as possible move away from the things that weaken you and spend more of your energy doing the things that strengthen you.



Fear God, Not Man

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Too many leaders live out of their insecurities. They fear people. What will this person think if I do that or say this? The wisest man who ever walked the planet said this:

Now all has been heard and here is the conclusion of the matter. Fear God and keep his commandments for this is the whole of man. Solomon

