

Definitions of Leadership

A. Definitions - Dictionary

Webster: lead•er•ship \ˈle-d ər-ship\ noun (1821)

- 1: the office or position of a leader
- 2: capacity to lead
- 3: the act or an instance of leading
- 4: LEADERS <the party leadership>

lead•er \ˈle-d ər\ noun (14th century)

- 2: a person who leads: as
 - a: GUIDE, CONDUCTOR
 - b (1): a person who directs a military force or unit
(2): a person who has commanding authority or influence
 - c (1): the principal officer of a British political party
(2): a party member chosen to manage party activities in a legislative body
(3): such a party member presiding over the whole legislative body when the party constitutes a majority
 - d (1): CONDUCTOR
(2): a first or principal performer of a group

Oxford: leader | noun

- 1 the person who leads or commands a group, organization, or country.
 - (also Leader of the House) Brit. a member of the government officially responsible for initiating business in Parliament.
 - 2 the principal player in a music group.
 - 3 Brit. a leading article in a newspaper.
 - 4 a short strip of non-functioning material at each end of a reel of film or recording tape for connection to the spool.
 - 5 a length of filament attached to the end of a fishing line to carry the hook or fly.
 - 6 a shoot of a plant at the apex of a stem or main branch.
 - 7 (leaders) Printing a series of dots or dashes across the page to guide the eye, especially in tabulated material.
- DERIVATIVES *leaderless* adjective *leadership* noun

B. Christian Leadership Definitions

Quotes

Christian leadership may be considered the exercise by a Christian member of the group of certain qualities and abilities given by the Spirit of God and based in Christian character, which at any given time, acting upon the call of God and the authority of His word, he will offer in loving service to the group for the sake of Christ, in order to facilitate the change of group behavior in the direction of Christlikeness and toward the achieving of the eternal goals of His church. Leadership for Christian Education, Gangel, p. 176

Christian leadership ought to be characterized by all the legitimate earmarks of effective secular leadership plus the factors which make it distinctively Christian (Gangel)

A leader is a man who knows where he is going and is able to get others to follow

Howard Hendricks

Scriptures - Read each passage, then write below it the leadership principle(s) or responsibilities revealed in it.

Matthew 20:24–28 (NASB95) *24 And hearing this, the ten became indignant with the two brothers. 25 But Jesus called them to Himself and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. 26 “It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, 27 and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”*

1 Peter 5:1–3 (NASB95) *1 Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, 2 shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; 3 nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.*

Hebrews 13:17 (NASB95) *Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.*

Acts 20:28–31 (NASB95) *28 “Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. 29 “I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; 30 and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. 31 “Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears.*

Luke 6:40 (NASB95) *“A pupil is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher.*

Exodus 18:17–23 (NASB95) 17 Moses' father-in-law said to him, "The thing that you are doing is not good. 18 "You will surely wear out, both yourself and these people who are with you, for the task is too heavy for you; you cannot do it alone. 19 "Now listen to me: I will give you counsel, and God be with you. You be the people's representative before God, and you bring the disputes to God, 20 then teach them the statutes and the laws, and make known to them the way in which they are to walk and the work they are to do. 21 "Furthermore, you shall select out of all the people able men who fear God, men of truth, those who hate dishonest gain; and you shall place these over them as leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties and of tens. 22 "Let them judge the people at all times; and let it be that every major dispute they will bring to you, but every minor dispute they themselves will judge. So it will be easier for you, and they will bear the burden with you. 23 "If you do this thing and God so commands you, then you will be able to endure, and all these people also will go to their place in peace."

Leaders in the Bible.

Moses: Considering Exodus 2-4, what did Moses think of his own abilities and how did he become the leader of God's people?

David: Considering 1 Samuel 17, what was the source of David's courage

Nehemiah: Considering Nehemiah 1 & 2, what was Nehemiah's passion and how did that result in him becoming a leader

Timothy: Considering Acts 16:1-3; 17:14-15; 1 Cor. 4:17; 16:10; 1 Tim. 4:14; what was Timothy like and how did he become a church leader?

C. Secular Definitions & Quotes

BusinessNewsDaily

"Leadership is inspiring others to pursue your vision within the parameters you set, to the extent that it becomes a shared effort, a shared vision and a shared success." – Steve Zeitchik, CEO of Focal Point Strategies

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"Leadership is actions committed by a person or group that produce an output or result. It simply helps people to get things done. It is not based on position in a hierarchy." – Robert Preziosi, professor and former chairman of management, Nova Southeastern University's Huizenga School of Business

"Leadership is simply causing other people to do what the leaders want. Good leadership, whether formal or informal, is helping other people rise to their full potential while accomplishing the mission and goals of the organization." – Bob Mason, founder, RLM Planning and Leadership

"Leadership is the collective action of everyone you influence. Your behavior — your actions and your words — determines how you influence. Our job as leaders is to energize whatever marshals action within others." – David Casullo, president, Bates Communications

"Leadership in the business world requires harnessing the energy and efforts of a group of individuals so that their outlook is advanced from an unremarkable Point A to a very desirable Point B — from bad to good, slow to fast, red to black. During that process, leadership manifests in projecting your expertise in a way that gains the confidence of others. Ultimately, leadership becomes about trust — when that confidence inspires them to align their vision and level of commitment for the betterment of the company." – Phil Blair, president, Manpower Staffing Services

"Leadership is when someone is willing to stand up front to be either the target or the hero to take responsibility for the success or failure of a given goal. Not everyone has the guts to be a leader and the [take] personal risks that they may encounter." – Darlene Tenes, founder and designer, CasaQ [5 Leadership Weaknesses and How to Fix Them]

Miscellaneous Quotes on Leadership

Leadership is the art of getting someone else to do something you want done because he wants to do it. —General Dwight Eisenhower

We live in a society obsessed with public opinion. But leadership has never been about popularity. —Marco Rubio

Lead me, follow me, or get out of my way. — General George Patton

A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way. —John Maxwell

He who has never learned to obey cannot be a good commander. —Aristotle

Effective leadership is not about making speeches or being liked; leadership is defined by results not attributes. —Peter Drucker

Leaders aren't born, they are made. And they are made just like anything else, through hard work. And that's the price we'll have to pay to achieve that goal, or any goal. —Vince Lombardi

The challenge of leadership is to be strong, but not rude; be kind, but not weak; be bold, but not bully; be thoughtful, but not lazy; be humble, but not timid; be proud, but not arrogant; have humor, but without folly. —Jim Rohn

There are three essentials to leadership: humility, clarity and courage. —Fuchan Yuan

I must follow the people. Am I not their leader? —Benjamin Disraeli

The story is told that one day during the French Revolution, a mob was rushing along the street when a bystander recognized a friend at the rear of the surging crowd. He called to his friend, "Pierre, come over here! I've something to tell you." The running man called back, "I can't right now. I'm the leader of this group and I must follow them."

Forbes - Kevin Kruse - *What is Leadership?*

Peter Drucker: "*The only definition of a leader is someone who has followers.*"

Really? This instance of tautology is so simplistic as to be dangerous. A new Army Captain is put in the command of 200 soldiers. He never leaves his room, or utters a word to the men and women in his unit. Perhaps routine orders are given through a subordinate. By default his troops have to "follow" orders. Is the Captain really a leader? Commander yes, leader no. Drucker is of course a brilliant thinker of modern business but his definition of leader is too simple.

Warren Bennis: "*Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality.*"

Every spring you have a vision for a garden, and with lots of work carrots and tomatoes become a reality. Are you a leader? No, you're a gardener. Bennis' definition seems to have forgotten "others."

Bill Gates: "*As we look ahead into the next century, leaders will be those who empower others.*"

This definition includes "others" and empowerment is a good thing. But to what end? I've seen many empowered "others" in my life, from rioting hooligans to Google workers who were so misaligned with the rest of the company they found themselves unemployed. Gates' definition lacks the parts about goal or vision.

John Maxwell: "*Leadership is influence – nothing more, nothing less.*"

I like minimalism but this reduction is too much. A robber with a gun has "influence" over his victim. A manager has the power to fire team members which provides a lot of influence. But does this influence make a robber or a manager a leader? Maxwell's definition omits the source of influence.

Leadership is a process of social influence, which maximizes the efforts of others, towards the achievement of a goal. - Kevin Kruse, Forbes

D. Discussion:

Are leaders born that way or are they developed? Can you think of Biblical examples? _____

After reading the various definitions above, what do you think are the essential characteristics and abilities of a leader _____

Here are some things a good leader will help his group to do:

- Discover its purpose
- Establish goals
- Plan
- Coordinate the planned program
- Assign responsibilities
- Point out the resources
- Maintain the momentum
- Evaluate the progress of the group

Here are some characteristics of a poor leader and what he will do to his group

- Divide and conquer (Plays favorites, singles out people both positively and negatively)
- Causes and allows for continual crises (a good group is “boring” without constant drama)
- Encourages the “chain of gratitude” - does things to obligate others
- Discourages strong followers
- Stifles creativity

E. Evaluation

This from a leadership development book. It is only a good exercise to get you to start thinking about developing your leadership abilities and making some initial plans to work on particular areas. As the weeks go on we will gain greater clarity in what God desires / requires in leaders among His people and you will be able to become more specific in the areas He wants you to develop.

Leadership Characteristic	How you view yourself	Indicate the degree that these characteristics are true in your life		
	Description	Infrequently	Sometimes	Almost Always
Purpose Related Characteristics				
Persistence	Hurdles and obstacles do not prevent me from accomplishing my objectives			
Resistance	Criticism from others has very little effect on my actions			
People Related Characteristics				
Servanthood	I take the initiative to meet the needs of other people			
Sensitivity	I am able to identify with another person's point of view			
Personal Life Characteristics				
Self-mastery	My life is characterized by a degree of discipline and self control			
Virile private life	I involve myself in a consistent time of self development and personal growth			
Confidence	I demonstrate a high degree of confidence in my abilities to make significant accomplishments			
Teachability	I demonstrate openness to new ideas and inputs from others			
Positive Attitude	In day-to-day situations I demonstrate a positive attitude and sense of humor			

Leadership Characteristic	Identify one characteristic you would like to strengthen	What specific actions can you take to strengthen this characteristic
Purpose Related Characteristics		
Persistence		
Resistance		
People Related Characteristics		
Servanthood		
Sensitivity		
Personal Life Characteristics		
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Virile private life		
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Leadership for Christian Education, Gangel, p. 176

Could also be individual

Christian leadership ought to be characterized by all the legitimate earmarks of effective secular leadership plus the factors which make it distinctively Christian (Gangel)

Not all claims of legitimacy are valid - - OK definition, but Christian leadership begins with God, not secular

A leader is a man who knows where he is going and is able to get others to follow

A good, succinct definition

Howard Hendricks

Scriptures - Read each passage, then write below it the leadership principle(s) or responsibilities revealed in it.

Matthew 20:24–28 (NASB95) *24 And hearing this, the ten became indignant with the two brothers. 25 But Jesus called them to Himself and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. 26 “It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, 27 and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”*

Secular leadership is about authority and control

Christian leadership is about service in following the example of Jesus

1 Peter 5:1–3 (NASB95) *1 Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, 2 shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; 3 nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.*

HUMILITY: Peter, an apostle, sees himself as a “fellow elder” - an equal.

CHARGE / DUTY: Shepherd the flock of God - it does not belong to you!

Godly OVERSIGHT: is done eagerly and voluntarily in the pursuit of seeking God’s will. It is not forced, done out of pride seeking position / authority or for selfish (sordid) gain

Hebrews 13:17 (NASB95) *Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.*

Leaders are responsible to God - they will given an account for the souls God has entrusted to them. It is helpful to have followers who will obey / submit

Acts 20:28–31 (NASB95) *28 “Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. 29 “I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; 30 and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. 31 “Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears.*

Leaders Protect - Be on guard / Be on alert

It is God’s flock over which God entrusts you

The wolves come from among the leaders who become proud / selfish seeking own kingdom

Luke 6:40 (NASB95) *“A pupil is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher.*

Leaders train pupils to be like themselves - You can’t lead where you won’t go / teach others what you don’t know / have

Exodus 18:17–23 (NASB95) 17 Moses' father-in-law said to him, "The thing that you are doing is not good. 18 "You will surely wear out, both yourself and these people who are with you, for the task is too heavy for you; you cannot do it alone. 19 "Now listen to me: I will give you counsel, and God be with you. You be the people's representative before God, and you bring the disputes to God, 20 then teach them the statutes and the laws, and make known to them the way in which they are to walk and the work they are to do. 21 "Furthermore, you shall select out of all the people able men who fear God, men of truth, those who hate dishonest gain; and you shall place these over them as leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties and of tens. 22 "Let them judge the people at all times; and let it be that every major dispute they will bring to you, but every minor dispute they themselves will judge. So it will be easier for you, and they will bear the burden with you. 23 "If you do this thing and God so commands you, then you will be able to endure, and all these people also will go to their place in peace."

Leaders are finite - no man can do it all . Godly leaders train / teach what is expected to people and also have other leaders who can lead smaller groups

Leaders in the Bible.

Moses: Considering Exodus 2-4, what did Moses think of his own abilities and how did he become the leader of God's people?

Moses was humble and did not believe he was qualified. He became a leader because God choose and called him

David: Considering 1 Samuel 17, what was the source of David's courage

David was courageous because he had seen God protect / use him in the past in dangerous situations (the lion & the bear) and trusted God to protect / used him in facing Goliath - and the other challenges that came as his responsibilities increased

Nehemiah: Considering Nehemiah 1 & 2, what was Nehemiah's passion and how did that result in him becoming a leader

Nehemiah was passionate for Jerusalem and the glory of God - this affected his emotions and countenance, which the king noticed - prompting questions - and then opportunity to do something about it all.

Timothy: Considering Acts 16:1-3; 17:14-15; 1 Cor. 4:17; 16:10; 1 Tim. 4:14; what was Timothy like and how did he become a church leader?

Timothy was very young (mid teens?) when Paul called him to accompany him on the second missionary journey. He learned as he traveled with Paul and gained greater responsibilities / leadership over time until he was being entrusted to appoint elders in churches as Paul's representative (Ephesus - 1 Timothy) He was a timid man and had to be encouraged.

C. Secular Definitions & Quotes

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"Leadership is inspiring others to pursue your vision within the parameters you set, to the extent that it becomes a shared effort, a shared vision and a shared success." – Steve Zeitchik, CEO of Focal Point Strategies Emphasis on vision leading to success

"Leadership is employing your skills and knowledge, leveraged by your attitude to get the results you desire." – Philip Gafka, founder, LEAP Associates Emphasis on the results

"A leader is a person who takes you where you will not go alone." – Susan Ascher, CEO, founder and president, SusanAscher.com Stated from a follower's perspective

"Leadership is actions committed by a person or group that produce an output or result. It simply helps people to get things done. It is not based on position in a hierarchy." – Robert Preziosi, professor and former chairman of management, Nova Southeastern University's Huizenga School of Business Emphasis on the results as opposed to position

"Leadership is simply causing other people to do what the leaders want. Good leadership, whether formal or informal, is helping other people rise to their full potential while accomplishing the mission and goals of the organization." – Bob Mason, founder, RLM Planning and Leadership Context suggests the "cause" is getting people to rise to their full potential in order to achieve organizational goals - but is that necessary?

"Leadership is the collective action of everyone you influence. Your behavior — your actions and your words — determines how you influence. Our job as leaders is to energize whatever marshals action within others." – David Casullo, president, Bates Communications
Confusing - is that influence positive or negative? Would it include discouraging others?

"Leadership in the business world requires harnessing the energy and efforts of a group of individuals so that their outlook is advanced from an unremarkable Point A to a very desirable Point B — from bad to good, slow to fast, red to black. During that process, leadership manifests in projecting your expertise in a way that gains the confidence of others. Ultimately, leadership becomes about trust — when that confidence inspires them to align their vision and level of commitment for the betterment of the company." – Phil Blair, president, Manpower Staffing Services A business definition - but good elements - leadership requires getting a group to trust you so they can accomplish something positive

"Leadership is when someone is willing to stand up front to be either the target or the hero to take responsibility for the success or failure of a given goal. Not everyone has the guts to be a leader and the [take] personal risks that they may encounter." – Darlene Tenes, founder and designer, CasaQ [5 Leadership Weaknesses and How to Fix Them] This is a characteristic of a leader - willing to take risks - but is it a definition of one?

Miscellaneous Quotes on Leadership

Leadership is the art of getting someone else to do something you want done because he wants to do it. —General Dwight Eisenhower Succinct - pointed.

We live in a society obsessed with public opinion. But leadership has never been about popularity. —Marco Rubio From a negative of what leadership is not - poll driven

Lead me, follow me, or get out of my way. — General George Patton A leader is going somewhere - and is willing to be a subordinate - as long as going right direction.

A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way. —John Maxwell
Succinct - pointed

He who has never learned to obey cannot be a good commander. —Aristotle Succinct -
interesting point, but not a definition of a leader

Effective leadership is not about making speeches or being liked; leadership is defined by results not attributes. —Peter Drucker Succinct, but it could describe an ungodly leader who leads people to failure.

Leaders aren't born, they are made. And they are made just like anything else, through hard work. And that's the price we'll have to pay to achieve that goal, or any goal. —Vince Lombardi
Emphasis on what is required to develop the ability to lead

The challenge of leadership is to be strong, but not rude; be kind, but not weak; be bold, but not bully; be thoughtful, but not lazy; be humble, but not timid; be proud, but not arrogant; have humor, but without folly. —Jim Rohn
Emphasis on the difficult balance a leader must maintain - but no definition of what leadership is / does

There are three essentials to leadership: humility, clarity and courage. —Fuchan Yuan
Necessary character qualities - but does not define a leader - a good follower has these

I must follow the people. Am I not their leader? —Benjamin Disraeli

The story is told that one day during the French Revolution, a mob was rushing along the street when a bystander recognized a friend at the rear of the surging crowd. He called to his friend, "Pierre, come over here! I've something to tell you." The running man called back, "I can't right now. I'm the leader of this group and I must follow them."

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Leadership is a process of social influence, which maximizes the efforts of others, towards the achievement of a goal. - Kevin Kruse, Forbes Succinct - pointed and includes three essential elements - leadership requires influencing and enabling other people toward achieving a goal. But perhaps Kruse should have combined the above into something like: "Leadership is the ability to communicate a vision that will attract followers and can then mobilize those followers into accomplishing goals in keeping with that vision"

D. Discussion:

Are leaders born that way or are they developed? Can you think of Biblical examples? _____

Leaders are not "born that way" - all people, even Jesus, developed as they grew in stature and wisdom. Some people are born with personality traits that lend themselves better toward leadership skills (an extrovert as compared to an introvert), but other character traits and skills must be developed.

After reading the various definitions above, what do you think are the essential characteristics and abilities of a leader Humility, confidence, vision, good communication skills, good people skills, flexibility, persistence,

Here are some things a good leader will help his group to do:

- Discover its purpose
- Establish goals
- Plan
- Coordinate the planned program
- Assign responsibilities
- Point out the resources
- Maintain the momentum
- Evaluate the progress of the group

Here are some characteristics of a poor leader and what he will do to his group

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