

SOLUTIONS

Nov/Dec 2017

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to small businesses in America



Gracious Leaders

Today's business environment demands people to step up and be aggressive, strong leaders, in order to get ahead and drive their companies and careers forward.

In that powerful march to success sometimes there is so much focus on being strong and assertive, people forget the human side. Here are twelve leadership qualities that truly matter.

1. Be Confident and Show Empathy

People will follow you if you express that you know what you're doing and where you are going. But not everyone sees it your way or can travel at your pace. See the road from their perspective and help them find the path.

2. Be Punctual and Show Forgiveness

Good leaders manage their time well and are respectful of other people's minutes. Everyone gets overly busy or distracted at some point. When one is late, assess the root of the faux pas before assuming disrespect. Then simply make the point and move on.

3. Be Proud and Show Humility

You should take pride in your accomplishments and push for achievement. But people admire those leaders whose victories speak for themselves and whose greatest accomplishment is the success of their followers.

4. Be Disciplined and Show Humanity

Serious, focused discipline is

what gets most jobs done efficiently and effectively. But not everyone can work nonstop. People need to relax and recharge.

Show them you can have fun as well. A little humor goes a long way to connect and show your human side.

5. Be Recognized and Show Recognition

One should openly accept accolades when they are bestowed. False modesty is not becoming, while hogging the limelight won't inspire your followers. Share the journey. Help everyone participate and enjoy the rewards.

6. Be Bold and Show Discretion

Not every conflict is a full on battle requiring heavy artillery. Determine the appropriate amount of time and energy for the situation, then apply it deftly. You'll keep your team fresh, alert, and ready for the big battles ahead.

7. Be Spontaneous and Show Thoughtfulness

Being ready for anything is a virtue - a strong leader knows how to shake things up with excitement. People also gain strength from a certain level of thoroughness and predictability. They value leaders who take the time to consider all options before venturing off into the unknown.

8. Be Directed and Show Consideration

Simply telling a team your way is the right way is not always enough for them to buy in. Demonstrate how the choices you've made will have the same positive effect on their performance. Consider that their life experience is different than yours

and help them comprehend the appropriate interpretation.

9. Be Firm and Show Compassion

Good leaders are likeable because they provide structure for success and make sure boundaries are clearly marked. Failure must be approached with compassionate correction and learning. Help transgressors find their way to happiness and success either in or out of your organization.

10. Be Generous and Show Gratitude

Leaders must give of themselves constantly. They give their time, knowledge, energy, motivation, and insights. They know that the more they give, the more success the team will achieve. Followers give as well. To feel worthwhile the team needs to know the leader appreciates how the team has gone above and beyond. A grateful leader has a loyal following.

11. Be a Listener and Show Appreciation

Thoughtful listening is important, but often leaders may have to rightly dismiss what was expressed. Listening is not always demonstrated through acceptance. Sometimes the answer is still no. Artful leaders are capable of making followers feel appreciated for simply having the opportunity to share their point of view.

12. Be a Leader and Show Compliance

Simply put, the most gracious and powerful leaders are the ones who understand when to step back, become a follower and let the most appropriate person lead.

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