

12 CHARACTERISTICS OF LEADERS

Since God created no two of us alike, it is obvious then there will be differences in how leaders lead. Since no two leaders come from the same background, it should be obvious there will be differences in leadership style.

Since every leader brings his own experiences to church leadership, it is obvious there will be differences in how to approach ideas. In my years of working with leaders in all kinds of situations and context, I have noted there are at least **12** characteristics of leaders.

- 1. VISIONARY LEADERS** — These leaders motivate others by painting a picture of what **“could be.”** What is your one burning vision for the church? What are you doing to achieve it?
- 2. RELATIONAL LEADERS** — These leaders motivate others through a personal connection. How are you personally connected to followers? Do they know it?
- 3. INNOVATIVE LEADERS** — These leaders find new ways of accomplishing **“old”** objectives. What are some of the new innovation you are presently working to achieve?
- 4. ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERS** — These leaders move people forward by organizing groups and teams with clear boundaries, expectations, and accountability. How effective is your organization structure?
- 5. FAITH-WALKING LEADERS** — These leaders exemplify what it means to **“walk by faith and not by sight”** in their daily lives and obedience to God’s word. What proof do you have that you are walking by faith?
- 6. LOVING LEADERS** — These leaders are very gentle and approachable in dealing with people and their hurts. They have the gift of **“mercy”** and **compassion**. Do other think of you as a loving leader? How do you know?
- 7. BOLD LEADERS** — These leaders have the **“we ought to obey God rather than man”** attitude. They dare to **“speak the truth in love.”** What are some bold things you are presently doing for the Gospel and the church?
- 8. COMMUNICATING LEADERS** — These are **leaders who have charisma, rhetoric and speaking and teaching skills**. They are **good listeners** and **enjoy communicating on all levels with followers**. How would you rate your communication skills?
- 9. PRAGMATIC LEADERS** — These are leaders who aren’t interested in theory, speculating, and guessing. They are busy looking for effective and commonsense solutions to problems. Will it work? Is a favorite question. How do you qualify as a pragmatic leader?
- 10. REACTIVE LEADERS** — These are more like managers who maintain status quo and keeping things in check. They tend to be more reactive than proactive. Some refer to this as a **“knee-jerk”** form of leadership. Would anyone describe you as a reactive leader?

11. BLIND LEADERS — While we usually have a negative reaction when we hear the phrase “**blind leader**” because of Jesus’ warning to “**let them alone**” (**Matthew 15:14**); there are some leaders who fail to see an obvious point, need, or consequence. Do you tend to have some “**blind spots**?”

12. FEARFUL LEADERS — God has created us with a natural ability to respond to physical threats but “**He hasn’t given us a spirit of fear**” (**2 Timothy 1:7**). Fearful leaders worry about what others may think, failure, or being embarrassed. Would anyone describe you as a fearful leader?

Most leaders will have some of all these 10 leadership qualities, but each will be dominant in one or more quality. Also, skills can be developed in each area.

Take a few minutes and reflect intentionally on each of the **10** leadership traits and identify which is your dominant one.

SOURCE — **J. J. Turner**