

FROM THE VAULT: THE VIRTUES OF A LEADER, PART 2

Virtues are important everywhere, but they are especially important within the context of leadership.

The Seven Virtues of Leadership

1. **Kindness** is love in action. It is the tangible expression of love.
2. **Community** is being a part of something greater than yourself where you can experience belonging, mutual care, and accountability.
3. **Empowerment** is investing in others so they can acquire the skills, opportunities, and responsibility to grow into all that God intended for them.
4. **Joy** is living with the assurance that we have been given a life worth living. “The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.” —Frederick Buechner
5. **Respect** is honoring the dignity of every person.
 - A. When you lose respect in a culture, it has a devastating impact.
 - B. One of the tough jobs of a leader is being willing to hold people accountable to being respectful.
6. **Generosity** is the capacity to participate imaginatively in the lives of others.
 - A. Leaders should be generous with their time.
 - B. Do for one what you wish you could do for everyone.
7. **Service** – A leader worth following is a servant leader. In a corporate environment, service and servant leadership should be rewarded. What’s rewarded is repeated.

Questions for Reflection or Team Discussion

1. Jonathan mentions that when you lose respect in your culture, it can have a devastating impact. Does the culture of your current organization uphold the virtue of respect? How can you as a leader hold yourself and others accountable to being respectful?
2. Are you currently mentoring those you’re leading? As a leader, how can you be more generous with your time? Is there someone who you could “do for one what you wish you could do for everyone”? Write down three ways you can pour into that person and challenge yourself to do
3. What does the term “servant leadership” mean to you? Do you have servant leaders in your organization?

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Resources Mentioned

Our Better Angels by Jonathan Reckford