



IT STARTS WITH YOU

"LEADERSHIP BEGINS WITH THE LEADER"



Bobby Bogard

When it comes to leadership, most struggle with the primary person involved; the leader inside themselves. Chris Hodges, senior pastor of Church of the Highlands, made this statement regarding personal leadership, "Leaders cannot climb beyond the limitations of their character."

WHY?

BECAUSE LEADERSHIP BEGINS WITH THE LEADER

-  • Oblivious leaders never understand that hidden **character flaws** can surface and sabotage all their influence.
-  • Integrous leaders never **assume** their character is flawless. They are **self-aware**.
-  • Oblivious leaders rely on **titles, skills,** and **authority** to lead.
-  • Integrous leaders constantly work toward **protecting** and **strengthening** their moral fiber. They lead by **trustworthiness**.

CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP IS CHARACTER LEADERSHIP

1 Corinthians 10:12 speaks to this when it says, "If you think you are standing strong, be careful not to fall." The reality for all leaders is that they are only one mistake from a devastating fall; a misstep that could cost them everything.

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King David discovered this in 2 Samuel Chapter 11. Springtime was the time of year when kings normally went out to war. But David stayed home; a decision that proved to be costly.

- His personal leadership began to unravel rather quickly.
- He commits adultery, tries to cover up his sin, and finally has the husband killed in battle.
- Remember, leadership begins with the leader. ***One senseless and ill-advised choice can lead to devastation.***



What are some boundaries that leaders can establish to keep their character in check? Maybe some predetermined safeguards to eliminate character mishaps? Here are some suggestions one might consider.

1. A leader should always have someone in their life who can know them intimately. Leaders will always be as sick as the secrets of their heart. A faithful friend can be a safe place to unpack the **hidden temptations**.
2. Another consideration for leaders is to establish an intercessory prayer team. A team of people who know their mission is to keep the leader covered.
3. Lastly, leaders should honestly consider what possible **pitfalls** lie ahead.
 - a. Maybe it's a coming season where their pace of life will be **abnormal**, and they need to protect their family time.
 - b. It could be a counseling session where there would be an **open door** to temptation and they need someone else in the room.
 - c. Perhaps they are struggling in their personal finances or their marriage is stressed. A wise leader will **seek** help.

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LEADERSHIP STUDY GUIDE



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- Oblivious leaders never understand that hidden _____ can surface and sabotage all their influence.



- Integrous leaders never _____ their character is flawless. They are _____.



- Oblivious leaders rely on _____, _____, and _____ to lead.



- Integrous leaders constantly work toward _____ and _____ their moral fiber. They lead by _____.

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