

Grand Knight and District Deputy Leadership Tips

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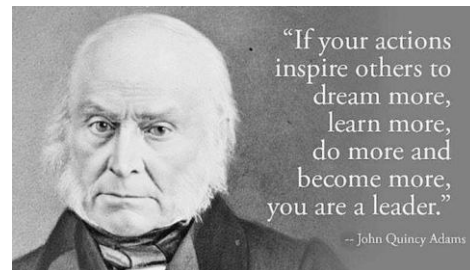
What Makes A Leader?

I recently read an article by Kevin Kruse and Dr. Travis Bradberry that attempted to define what a leader really is. I thought it addressed a number of points that we as Knights and leaders of our Order can benefit from

I've paraphrase some of the material to relate it more to the Knights than to the business world which was the article's main audience.

What makes someone a leader anyway?

Such a simple question, and yet it should continue to vex the leadership of our Order, both at the State and Supreme levels. I've written two books on Council and District leadership, and yet I find it a rare thing to actually pause to define leadership.



Let's start with what leadership is not...

Leadership has nothing to do with seniority or one's position in the Knights. Many of us talk about those "*in charge*" are referring to the senior most positions of our State Council. That is, State Officers, State Directors, District Deputies or Grand Knights. They are just that, senior positions. Leadership doesn't automatically happen when you reach a certain level in the Order. Hopefully you find it there, but there are no guarantees.

Leadership has nothing to do with titles. Similar to the point above, just because you have a "*State*", "*District*" or "*Council*" level title, doesn't automatically make you a "leader." It is often mentioned that you don't need a title to lead. You can be a leader in your church, your neighborhood, or your family, all without having a title.

Leadership has nothing to do with personal attributes. Say the word "leader" and most people think of a domineering, take-charge, charismatic individual. People often think of icons from history like General Patton or President Lincoln. But leadership isn't an adjective. We don't need to be extroverted or charismatic to practice leadership. And those with charisma don't automatically lead.

Leadership isn't management. This is the big one. **Leadership and management are not synonymous.** You may have 5 Councils within your district, a couple of hundred members within your Council or over 7,000 knights within the State Council that you serve as a State Officer. Good for you, hopefully you are a good manager of these responsibilities.

Good management is needed! Managers need to plan, measure, monitor, coordinate, solve, do the paperwork, and so many other things. Managers spend most of their time managing *things*. **Leaders lead people!**

So, again, what makes a leader?

Definition: Leaders work with and focus on the people around them to motivate and inspire them. They delegate both responsibility and authority to allow those they lead to evangelize our faith through the achievement of a greater good for our fellowman and for our Church. Their goal is to not only deliver Charity but to develop others into better Christian Leaders!

Notice the key points of this definition:

- Leadership stems from *working with people*, not authority or power.
- Leadership *requires others*, and that implies they don't need to be "direct reports."
- No mention of personality traits, attributes, or even a title; there are many styles, many paths to effective leadership.
- It includes a *greater good*, not influence with no intended outcome.

Leadership is a mindset in action. So don't wait for the title. Leadership isn't something that anyone can give you—you have to earn it and claim it for yourself. As a leader, how are you Inspiring, Motivating, Developing and Delegating?

Thanks for reading and May God Bless you and your family!

Greg

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P.S. Please consider joining us at the Grand Knight Leadership Workshop on August 15th 10:00 to 02:30, at the Bedford Council #12988, 190 Meetinghouse Rd, Bedford. Please send me an email to reserve your slot for this event. Lunch will be served