

# Becoming a Leader of Character

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What is a Leader of Character?



# Introduction: What Makes the Best Leaders?

The Six Character Traits: Courage, Humility, Integrity, Duty, Selflessness, and Positivity

- Where do you see failures in leadership?
- Incompetency or character flaws? (History tells us the answer)
- Who are the people you look up to and what characteristics do they exemplify? (Maybe: trustworthy, confident, understanding, etc)
- Management vs Leadership?
- What kind of leader do you want to be?

“Character is higher than Intellect” - Ralph Waldo Emerson



What is Character?





# Courage and Humility



# Why do Courage and Humility come first?

- In order to have integrity, we must have courage!
- Excessive pride is the direct result of a lack of humility!
- Courage and Humility directly defeat the two main causes for leadership failure: fear and pride
- The rest of the character traits cannot exist without Courage and Humility

"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." - Edmund Burke

# Habit #1: Courage

- Courage is acting despite *perceived* or actual risk
- Without courage, we cannot step forward and **lead**
- Courage in big moments is the result from courage in small moments
- A root cause for a lack of courage is the fear of failure

“The people who move forward and overcome their fears do not have some special powers or a magic pill they take; they just have more practice in facing their fears.” General James L. Anderson

# Habit #2: Humility

- Humility is NOT a sign of weakness
- Humility is NOT a lack of confidence
- **Believe** and act like “It’s not about **me**”
- Humble leaders make a lasting impact
- By proclaiming how unique you are, you become just like everyone else
- Arrogance and insecurity are the same

“A Leader of Character does not see his/her mistakes as a sign of weakness but as a sign of humanity” - General James L. Anderson



# Habit #3 Integrity

- Integrity is doing what is good, right, and proper, even at personal cost
- Do you really have integrity if you're only honest when you have nothing to lose?
- We must strive for purity and wholeness, hence the root of the word
- Integrity and honesty are not the same; however, honesty is an essential component of integrity
- Doing the right thing with impure motives is not Integrity

"The time is always right to do what is right" - Martin Luther King Jr.

# Habit #4: Selflessness

- God is first (if religious), others are second, and I am third
- Selfless people do not need the spotlight, so they do not bring attention to themselves
- Putting the needs of others before my own needs, desires, or convenience
- We are thankful for the opportunity to lead others

“Selflessness does not require me to think less of myself but to think of myself less” - General James L. Anderson

# Habit #5: Duty

- Duty means that I see a need, and I take care of the need because it is what I should do
- Assigned tasks and moral obligations all fall under Duty
- As a leader, you give up the right to only do what you feel like doing
- If you only do the bare minimum, you are **not** doing enough
- Duty guides who you are and how you make decisions

“You can’t escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today” -  
Abraham Lincoln

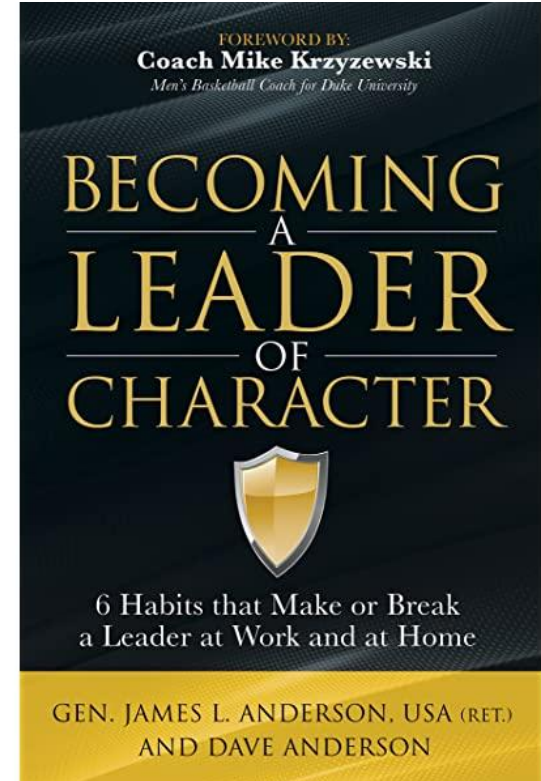
# Habit #6: Positivity (the hardest habit)

- Positivity is displaying a positive and/or can-do attitude in all circumstances
- Do not be focused on reasons why something won't succeed
- Negative attitudes put us in a position of predetermined failure
- Everyone has a reason to be sad or angry, so make the choice to be positive
- Focus on the possibilities of the future and what you can give to others

"Your attitude is a choice. Make a different choice" - General James L. Anderson

# Conclusion: Exercise these habits

- In order to become a Leader of Character, you must consciously and continuously perform these actions until they become second nature





Questions?

