

LEADER LESSONS

The Most Important Leader Lesson

1Cor. 9:24-27 NLT

Dr. Don Maiden
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What Is A Leader?

The broad definition: A leader is one who uses their influence with people for a _____ or _____ **Purpose.**

What is a good leader?

The Christian/NorthRidge definition: *Persons who use their influence to lead others toward the _____.*

Building on this definition, you have great potential to be a good leader if you believe and practice the most important leadership lesson:

- Learning to _____ well is the most important lesson of leadership (1 Cor. 9:24-25).
- The point of leading is not to cross the finish line first; it's to _____ the finish line with you (1Cor. 9:19, 22b).
- Leading yourself means that you hold yourself to a _____ of accountability than others do (1Cor. 9:26-27a).

The immediate application of this message is to Life Groups.

Take Action

Disappointment and discouragement are real drags on your spiritual progress and hold you back from learning to lead yourself well. Negatively, disappointment and discouragement can lead to setbacks, sins, and keep you from moving on and running to win the race of life God has for you.

- How were you disappointed or discouraged most recently?
- Leading yourself well will result in God giving you direction in your life. It's **NOT** too late to let your personal failure or disappointment point you to God's best for your life. The fact is failure is never our biggest problem. Failing to learn from failure is the only failure. Do you believe this? Read & reflect on Proverbs 3:5-6—what does it say to you?
- Write out a prayer expressing your trust in the Lord to turn your discouragement & disappointment into hope.
- Will you believe God to come through for you? Why or why not?
- How clearly do you see yourself? To get a more objective look at yourself, review your performance from the last year. On another page, list all of your major short-term goals and objectives, then mark each as either “achieved” or “not achieved.”

Now show the list to someone you know and respect, and tell the person you are evaluating a candidate for a job—of course the job is leading yourself, but the person doesn't have to know that part. Ask them what they think based on the “candidate's” achievements and failures. How does that person's evaluation jive with your own? This will tell you a lot about your self-perception.

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What Is A Leader?

The broad definition: A leader is one who uses their influence with people for a **Good or Bad Purpose**.

What is a good leader?

The Christian/NorthRidge definition: *Persons who use their influence to lead others toward the purposes of Jesus Christ.*

Building on this definition, you have great potential to be a good leader if you believe and practice the most important leadership lesson:

- Learning to **Lead Yourself** well is the most important lesson of leadership (1 Cor. 9:24-25).
- The point of leading is not to cross the finish line first; it's to **Take People Across** the finish line with you (1Cor. 9:19, 22b).
- Leading yourself means that you hold yourself to a **Higher Standard** of accountability than others do (1Cor. 9:26-27a).

The immediate application of this message is to Life Groups.

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