

"What It Takes To Be A Great Leader (Or Follower)"

©John Mariotti 2002

To be a great leader you must have integrity--it is the foundation upon which everything else is built. It is invisible, but the people around you can feel it more than see it. A great leader must have vision to see the possibilities in the future, and optimism to know they are there when they aren't quite visible.

To be a great leader you must have the spirit to inspire others, and be able to infect them with enthusiasm for the challenges and opportunities ahead. A great leader demands great preparation.

To be a great leader you must have the toughness to stay the course and accept nothing less than excellence, even when the going is very tough. A great leader must have persistence to never give up, yet have a sense of humor to be able to laugh at the little upsets.

To be a great leader you must have heart and soul. Heart to care and share with others, and soul to keep the faith and hope, with charity. A great leader must love--both life and people--and it must be evident. A great leader attracts other great people.

Last, but certainly not least, to be a great leader you must have passion, an indomitable spirit, a will to win, and the confidence in your team to emerge victorious. Above all, a great leader realizes that leaders don't win, the team of great followers does.