



Coaching 4 Ministers
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Seven Passions of Great Leaders ***By Dr. David Robinson, Founder***

Passion usually implies a strong emotion that tends to have an overpowering or compelling effect. Great leaders are anything but passionless. If you are going to lead people to accomplish anything of significant value, passion will be involved. If not, you will find not many following because the higher the climb, the greater the challenge. The longer the journey requires leaders who are not only convinced their cause is just, their mind is made up but passion to win must burn hot.

Leaders are passionate about many things. Allow me to give you my top seven, not necessarily in ranking order or standing alone, but as a group working in harmony regardless of effort.

The Passion for Gaining Truth and the Knowledge

All progress is the result of making wise choices. Proverbs 19:2 says the key to possessing wisdom is rooted in the habit of staying on a learning curve for life. "My people perish for a lack of knowledge." Great leadership begins with an awareness of the facts and a range of information. But, it goes far beyond that in a pursuit of the Truth. Facts will help you deal clearly with present reality but only a revelation of the Truth will prepare you for the future that is unknown.

The Passion for Possessing Excellence in Wisdom

Discipline comes as a result of knowing the facts and acting on them. Excellence comes over time as you become intimate with the Truth. Wisdom is knowledge put into proper actions. At the heart of wisdom is a life-long commitment to excellence. Excellence is not a goal to be reached but a way of life built on God-honoring standards and principles learned only by a passion for wisdom. Excellence will propel you to new and higher levels of performance.

The Passion for Discernment and Discretion

Decisions based on wise discernment and discretion determines your future. Discernment and discretion are wisdom in action. Great leaders make decisions every day that affect health, finances, families, emotional and spiritual well-being. These affect not only their lives, but usually many others.

I Corinthians 10:13 says, "But remember that the temptations that come into your life are no different from what others experience. And, God is faithful. He will keep the temptation from becoming so strong that you can't stand up against it. When you are so tempted, He will show you a way out so that you will not give in to it." (NLT) Make the right choice - your future depends on it.



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The Passion for Honesty and Integrity

In today's culture, we don't lie anymore, we "miss-speak." Finding a leader today who tells the truth (honesty) and one who tells the truth all the time (integrity), is challenging to say the least. "People with wink at wrong cause trouble but a bold reproof promote peace. The words of the godly lead to life; evil people cover up their harmful intentions." Proverbs 10:9-11. (NLT)

The Passion for Humility

The balance for strength in leadership and humbleness in attitude is a constant battle for most leaders. A lifestyle of humility leads to the discovery and admission of your shortcomings (momentary failures) and weaknesses (areas in you and your leadership in which God has not gifted you and you will never be strong.) Pretending to be either strong or humble will not fill the gaps in your life or leadership. Only awareness plus action, based on humility will close the gap. Proverbs 22:4 says, "True humility and fear of the Lord lead to honor, riches, and long life." (NLT) Only as we ruthlessly rid ourselves of false pride and false humility will be led to a life of having more than we need the respect of our peers and a life worth living.

The Passion for Spirit-led Discipline and Surrender

We often hear about self-discipline but this many times leads to self-destruction and dozens of personality disorders so prevalent. Proverbs 15:32 talks about a person who neglects himself ends up despising himself. Despise means to live below your dignity, to down yourself with contempt and living without discipline. This leads to a lack of confidence at best and a poor self-image at worst. Now the cover-up begins and many times addictions take over. "The complacency of fools will destroy them." (NIV) Discipline and surrender for Christian leaders should not be a work of the flesh and assigned totally to the will of man. Yes, it is tough work disciplining yourself but if you don't, the text says you walk on the destruction of complacency. But as you have a revelation of who you are in Christ and Who He is in you - the Holy Spirit will guide you along this most difficult path. He will take you from being self-disciplined (which is good) to being Spirit-disciplined which is far better. The former is a battle from without to an internal surrender which produces more satisfying results.



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The Passion to Live Within Limits

In every area of life, health, finances and relationships, great leaders understand the value and necessity of limits. Learning to live within your limits while serving an unlimited God separates good leaders from great leaders. Most people, and many leaders, live their lives on the launching pad of life never rising to their full potential. Why? They either ignore or refuse to follow the divinely designed limits of a Biblical lifestyle. I Corinthians 9:27 talks about "beating your body daily and bringing it into subjection." Philippians exhorts us to "let this mind (Christ's) be in you." I Corinthians 13 gives great wisdom on loving relationships. Malachi 3 provides the secret to handling your finances. We should never limit God in any circumstance. Great leaders know their own limits and boundaries and should know them for those they lead.



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