

Leadership *Quick Tips*



5 Ministry-Changing Insights from Ron Edmondson

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12 Killers of Good Leadership

by Ron Edmondson

I know numerous leaders with great potential...

They have all the appearance of being a good leader...

But they lack one thing...or two...

There are a few killers of good leadership...

Any one of these can squelch good leadership...

It's like a wrecking ball of potential...

It's not that they can't lead, but to continue to grow as a leader...to be successful at a higher level or for the long-term...they must address these issues.

Here are 12 killers of good leadership:

Defensiveness – Good leaders don't wear their feelings on their shoulders. They know other's opinions matter and aren't afraid to be challenged.

Jealousy – A good leader enjoys watching others on the team excel.

Revenge – The leader that succeeds for the long term must be forgiving and knows that "getting even" only comes back to harm them and the organization.

Fearfulness – The good leader remains committed when no one else is and must take risks no one else will. Others will follow. That's what leaders do.

Favoritism - Good leaders don't have favorites on the team. They reward for results not partiality.

Ungratefulness - Good leaders value people, knowing they cannot attain success without others.

Small-mindedness – Good leaders think bigger than today. They are dreamers and idea people.

Pridefulness - Pride comes before the fall. Good leaders remain humbled by the position of authority entrusted to them.

Rigidity - There are some things to be rigid about, such as values and vision, but for most issues, the leader

must be open to change. Good leaders welcome new ideas, realizing that most everything can be improved.

Laziness – One can't be a good leader and not be willing to work hard. In fact, the leader should be willing to be the hardest worker on the team.

Unresponsiveness – Good leaders don't lead from behind closed doors. They are responsive to the needs and desires of those they attempt to lead. They respond to concerns and questions. They collaborate more than control. Leaders who close themselves off from those they lead will limit the places where others will follow.

Dishonesty – Since character counts highest, a good leader must be above reproach. When a leader fails, he or she must admit their mistake and work towards restoration.

A leader may struggle with one or more of these, but the goal should be to lead "killer-free." Leader, be honest, which of these wrecking balls do you struggle with most?

10 Resolutions Guaranteed to Improve Your Leadership

by Ron Edmondson

The best leadership, in my opinion, comes out of the resolve a leader has made in his or her heart. The resolve of a leader is the pre-determined approach a leader will take when carrying out his or her leadership. These are personal convictions that shape the way a leader leads, responds to others, and the choices a leader makes.

Most often, these resolutions are made even prior to being in a leadership position. The resolve of a leader is powerful. In fact, if a leader wants to improve his or her leadership, he or she must often improve first their personal resolve.

So do you want to improve your leadership?

Here are 10 resolutions guaranteed to improve your ministry leadership:

I resolve to never compromise my character in my search for progress.

I resolve to consistently be walking by faith.

I resolve to pray earnestly before I make major decisions.

I resolve to surround myself with wise and moral influencers.

I resolve to protect my family time while working in ministry.

I resolve to make my personal health a priority.

I resolve to allow trials and turmoil to draw me closer to Christ and shape my character for good.

I resolve to love the unlovable.

I resolve to pray for my enemies, extend grace liberally, and never hold a grudge.

I resolve to allow at least a few people access to know and speak into the deepest and most private parts of my life.

12 Awkward Moments in Leadership and Life

by Ron Edmondson

Have you ever had an awkward moment in leadership? I've had plenty. In fact, I've done all of these on this list.

Here are a dozen awkward moments in leadership:

1. Selfishly holding out for **your** way only to be proven wrong
2. Tweeting publicly what was supposed to be a private direct message
3. Sticking your neck out for someone and they betray you behind your back
4. Doing an introduction and mispronouncing the name
5. Beginning a presentation before you realize you're unzipped
6. Speaking before you think and sticking your foot in your mouth
7. Calling someone by the wrong name
8. Replying to an e-mail with confidential information rather than forwarding it
9. Not realizing the microphone is on
10. Placing the wrong month on the calendar and missing an important appointment
11. Mistakenly walking into the wrong bathroom minutes before you stand up to speak
12. Getting frustrated with the driver of a car you didn't know was driving to meet with you

Which of these have you done?

10 Questions to Rate Your Leadership Health

by Ron Edmondson

I work with a lot of church leaders. One thing I've discovered, if they let me get close enough inside their real world, is that many are hurting. They are facing burnout. They are tired. Many are worn down from carrying the stress of everyone else, yet finding few people they can trust with whom to share their burdens. They face the pressure of dysfunctional leadership and the [loneliness of being a leader](#). I suspect this can be found in all fields of leadership (and life) and isn't limited to being a pastor. The bigger question is, however...

Does any of this describe you?

Not sure? I'm using my counseling degree for this one, but I encourage you to answer a few questions:

- Do you discipline yourself with adequate time to rest?
- Do you feel your home life is balanced with your work life?
- Do you sleep well at night?
- Are you able to accomplish all that is required of you?
- Do you make decisions out of confidence? (Or are you living in fear?)

If you answered "No" to one of these there may be issues of concern, in my opinion, and you should consider exploring ways to answer "Yes." If you have 2 or more "No" answers, please consider taking definite steps to being healthier as a leader.

Still not sure if you are healthy as a leader? Answer these questions:

- Do you worry excessively?
- Are you having physical problems, such as excessive weight gain, headaches, or muscle tension due to stress or inactivity?
- Have you recently or frequently had thoughts that you are inadequate?
- Are you more irritable than normal, less patient, or do you have a "short-fused" temper?
- Have you been more impulsive, irrational, or felt more scattered with the decisions you make than usual?

Again, one “Yes” answer may be enough for concern, but if you have two or more, I would encourage you to take action for your own well-being.

Here are 5 suggestions, which may help:

Stop everything for a couple days to fast and pray.

Read [THIS POST](#) about pastor burnout.

Make (and keep) an appointment with a professional therapist.

Be honest with a mature friend you trust.

Check on the health of your family. (Your stress is most likely having an impact on them.)

How did you do?

Dear Christian leader, don't risk your calling or your witness because you are unhealthy as a leader. You can drown alone, or you can get the help you need. Make a wise choice.

Have you had times in leadership where you had to get help to keep your sanity? What did you do?

7 Critical Abilities for Top-Level Leaders

by Ron Edmondson

I want to address some critical abilities that a senior leader must have to be effective. The intent of this post is not to appear arrogant as a senior leader, as if I have qualities others may not have, although I'm confident some will take it that way. (Isn't being misunderstood part of being a senior leader?) I'm not afraid to admit my weaknesses...of which I have many...but there are certain abilities senior leaders need to do their job well.

I remember how many people told me I wouldn't understand parenting until I was a parent. They were right.

I remember how many people told me I should enjoy parenting at every stage of life while my boys were home. They were right.

I remember how many told me that I would adjust to being an empty nester. They were right.

The point is that sometimes we can't understand something until we experience it firsthand.

That's the way it is with being the senior leader in an organization. All leadership is challenging, but the senior position is a pressure unlike any other. Show me a small business owner, a president, a senior pastor, or CEO, and I'll show you someone who carries...in an organizational leadership sense...a heavy burden. I've learned from observation that some are qualified to lead from that position and some are not.

A limiting factor in one being qualified for a senior level position in an organization appears to me to be when they lack some of the abilities required of that position. It doesn't mean all senior leaders excel in each of these...I certainly don't...but to be effective they must be aware of the need to have these abilities and working towards them.

Here are 7 critical abilities every senior leader must have:

1. Ability to quickly and strategically think big picture

The senior leader doesn't have a choice but to think big picture for the organization at all times. He or she must learn to think strategically in the moment, realizing that the future of the organization is always at stake.

2. Ability to remain steadfast during adversity

The senior leader must continue to stand strong when everyone else is running from the problems. In times

of crisis or controversy, the organization and community around it look for leadership. A senior leader doesn't have the choice of burying his or her head in the sand when troubles surround the organization.

3. Ability to unquestionably keep a confidence

The senior leader usually knows things that aren't yet ready to be released or talked about publicly. He or she must be trusted to keep these confidences. A senior leader must learn how to answer questions and address issues of importance to people without divulging confidential information.

4. Ability to fully release control and delegate

The senior leader must wear many hats and oversee all areas of focus within an organization. He or she must be able to trust and take risks on others to free the organization to continue to grow. Delegation is important at all levels of leadership, but for the senior leader it is not an option.

5. Ability to see all sides to an issue

The senior leader can't always side with his or her area of personal interest, but must balance all the needs within an organization. This is another part of thinking strategically in the moment. Since an organization is built with many separate but equally important parts, the senior leader must view every scenario as it relates to each individual part of the organization.

6. Ability to make unpopular decisions

The senior leader must make the wisest decision possible for the organization, even when that means the decision will not be popular. This often produces a loneliness of leadership that keeps many from being able to handle the senior leader position.

7. Ability to embrace healthy conflict for the good of the organization

The senior leader can't shy away from conflict that is critical to maintain the health of the organization. The senior leader recognizes the importance of allowing times of conflict to strengthen the organization.

If you don't have these abilities, **don't quit leading**, but recognize an area of improvement and seek ways to grow as a senior leader.