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# ***Leadership***

***Our Attitude as a Leader***  
***Examples of Leadership***  
***Responsibilities of a Leader***  
***Points on Leadership***

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## ***Our Attitude as a Leader***

**I**n a sense, we are leaders no matter what our mission. On the most basic level, we must "lead" or direct ourselves throughout our daily activities, yet some of us are selected to accept even greater responsibilities in leading other members, economic enterprises, and the like.

The destiny of each Unificationist is to become a victor—a leader—in our home church area. Therefore, we must come to think of ourselves as public servants. If we fail to develop a humble attitude, we will not function as good mediators between God and other people, and we will be only mediocre leaders.

**T**he individual who emanates the greatest love has potential to become a leader—internally, if not externally. That is why leaders must strive to be clear channels for God to work through; God wants to love others *through* them. The core of love is service. Once a leader feels the love of God and the Messiah, he will naturally want to serve and uplift people in his attempt to fulfill his ultimate goal of making them happy by bringing them closer to God.

**T**rust is a very necessary element of leadership. You should strive to be trusted as a leader, yet as well, disclose to your followers what goes on within your heart. As they understand you better, they will also accept and trust you more. Although it is important for members to trust God and the hierarchy of leadership, it is most crucial that God be able to trust you in your position. Following suit, you should come to trust your members.

**L**eadership should never be equated with dictatorship. Being a leader means leading, or guiding, people to God and True Parents and in essence, becoming a parent. Be sure then that you view each member as a son or daughter of God. Regardless of any problems which you may have with a member, don't forget that the person made a conscious decision to give his or her life to God. Remind yourself of that fact when it becomes necessary; such parental love should become the foundation of your leadership. If you can succeed in being a parent to your members, your method of leadership will definitely be in accordance with God's.

Leaders should surrender themselves to God. I feel it would be good for an internal "revival" to be instigated within our movement to help leaders unite with God and the Principle. A leader of quality spiritual fiber will naturally be able to educate and work with many different types of people. Members are much more able to follow a leader whose own standard of faith exemplifies deep love for God and True Parents. It is ultimately up to each leader which of his qualities he will display to the public eye. He alone chooses whether or not he will show others the threads of His character which God has sewn directly into his heart. Furthermore, it is up to God to discern the level of commitment made by each leader and bestow resultant blessings to both that leader and his members.

If a leader allows himself to brood over the miserable situation of the universe and how far away from God humanity really is, he may lead his people, but they could end up in spiritual valleys of depression and gloom. If he is not optimistic and positive, how long will he be able to continue to go on his own power? He and his followers may become stuck in spiritual mud and unable to lift themselves out. He must seek the energy of God, and not depend upon his own reserve.

So many people die prematurely, full of hatred, guilt, or self-pity. They have been led by Satan's powerful arguments. Any leader who does not have the spiritual power to shut up Satan's non-stop talk, may feel low self-esteem and become devastated by the spiritual pressure which accompanies his role. Therefore, a leader must especially be conscious of building up his self-confidence and inspiring others to do the same. A leader must be able to make people happy—with themselves, and each other—despite the difficulties of their surrounding circumstances.

Every leader must make supreme efforts to keep up with the times. There is also a real need for every leader to increase his understanding of spiritual laws as well as world events; this will help him develop his capacities of heart and intellect. Anyone who does not learn through activities or through interaction with people, will not make fast enough progress toward perfection. This is the same for leaders and followers alike. It is a basic matter of attitude. Unless we can grow into our position and develop greater capabilities, we will just be left behind.

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## ***Examples of Leadership***

**G**od is the supreme leader in the entire universe. If we study His history, it will be easy to see evidence of His parental heart. It will also be easy to discern how much He considers and provides for the physical and spiritual needs of each one of us. Examination of history will also share with us something of His vision for the ideal world, and we will discover how much He continues to devote Himself to building it. Despite the many setbacks He experiences, His capacity to persevere is awesome. He ultimately desires to embrace all of His children in true love. Needless to say, every leader should strive to learn from God.

In his position as Messiah, Father has the most intimate relationship with God. Therefore, the more we discover about Father, the more qualities of good leadership we will uncover. Father is a magnanimous man, and his leadership is of the highest quality. No one can surpass his level of leadership, yet at the same time no one is able to truly understand him. As Father evidences in his own lifestyle, anyone who desires to become a leader must determine to bear the burden of loneliness, for a true leader will sacrifice his life for the sake of humanity.

Leaders must investigate the way Father has been leading people to discover inner peace and to reach perfection of heart. Leaders should also research the way Father has been sharing the secrets of God's nature, and liberate that part of Him which has been tucked away from view. The qualities of leadership which both God and Father extend are total obedience, total sacrifice, and total love. Emulating those three ideals will take every ounce of energy and heart a leader can give, but those are the very traits found in the world's greatest leaders.

**L**eaders should be trained to reflect the parental heart of God, for it is the love of God that can truly win another person's heart. If you as a leader want to help people come to God, love to the extreme. This is the secret which will evoke the presence of God. The more closely you imitate the qualities of leadership we find in the True Parents, the more success you will have as a leader.

**I**f you become a leader, you must become responsible for your people and care for their situations. Every member under you needs to strengthen his or her relationship to God. Remember that when you speak

about positive things to a person, you bring a bit of God to him. We can learn from Father in this sense. Although he constantly speaks to many people from various backgrounds, he never fails to accept a certain amount of responsibility for what they have heard. He wants to be sure that they comprehend what he shared with them. As a leader, Father continuously prays that he will be a true channel for God to work through.

Each leader should determine to accomplish the same basic goals Father has on the individual, familial, societal, national, and worldwide levels. In order to do that, he must tread the same path. Father willingly shows us a road map, and even points out obstacles we will find along the way. Since he has already walked the road, he can easily explain how to get there. Leaders must realize that grace never comes without payment. That entails fulfilling greater responsibility—the other side of the "coin" of salvation.

It is much easier for members to accept a leader who shows the capacity of his heart and demonstrates much love. Those are qualities essential for every leader to cultivate. Too often leaders may only exercise their lungs and bellow out certain directions, yet have very undeveloped hearts and minimal understanding of an individual's situation. Such leadership evokes a variety of reactions. Members typically tend to reject, withdraw from, drive away, not recognize, or not follow such a leader, and in the most extreme case, betray him. Jesus was an exemplary leader, and he is remembered for his parental heart and love. How many of us are confident that the kind of legacy we are leaving will demonstrate our own capacity to share the true love of God, and be a pure channel for Him?

To lead" is an action verb meaning "to carry." A leader then must care for and carry his people, providing for all their needs. In this way, a leader is actually a servant. A perusal of history will reveal that an internally quiet or calm person who endows truth and silently serves, will be able to lead others. Men such as Jesus and Father not only espouse theories; they both possess the kind of inner fortitude that makes them servants, yet at the same time shine in leading multitudes.

It is natural that a leader may often feel disappointed. He may have desired to offer great results to God, but perhaps his members encountered tests and trials which were difficult to break through, thus making the outcome less than he originally anticipated. Certain members

then may not have been able to fulfill some of the goals he outlined. God also suffers such frustration. He trusts us, but if we do not accomplish, what can His recourse be? God has relatively few people to choose from, and must use the same people over and over again, or use the same people to accomplish more than one major responsibility. Leaders must do the same. Father is a classic example. He simply has no choice but to trust us; many times he even verbalizes that he must do just that.

God trusts a person even though He knows all the discrepancies within his character. But God is not naive. He knows how clever Satan is and how adamantly he works through mankind. God most certainly does not want to be duped. A leader who places trust in someone is not necessarily ignorant about that person's shortcomings; he may not even be convinced that the person will succeed, but initially gives him the benefit of the doubt anyway. If someone disappoints me many times, I may give him further opportunities, but at the same time I closely observe his behavior and words.

Both Jesus and Father are men who possess the ability to narrate parables in a way that is understandable to the people of their times. Behind these stories are deep lessons to be learned about God and the restoration of relationships. Leaders such as Jesus and Father always seek to teach us by word and deed. They are real champions of unconditional love and they share their hearts with us. Their tears invisibly help to gain victory for God and heal a great deal of the pain of this world. All Unificationist leaders should learn from their examples and attempt to inherit their tradition.

### *Responsibilities of a Leader*

Every person given responsibility as a leader must be able to discern the difference between what is occurring on the spiritual plane and what is occurring on the physical plane. There is often only a thin line separating the two, making it even more important to understand the nuances.

If leaders take responsibility it means they willingly stand in for Heavenly Father, and enable Him to work through them.

**I**t is best for a person who has a problem with his central person to be honest and discuss it with that leader. If a wall has built up through a lack of verbal exchange, both leader and member have partial responsibility for any misunderstanding that occurs. It is possible to straighten out such a problem, but only when *both* parties communicate. If as a leader you are confronted with someone who openly admits having problems with you, feel the obligation to rectify the situation. Love that person even more deeply than before. Both of you need to come half way, but the first step should be made by you.

Often people occupying leadership positions find it hard to be open and receptive to members who are honest enough to reveal the heaviness in their hearts. Has that ever happened to you? Next time it does, keep in mind that it is not always easy for a person to admit the stumbling blocks that exist in his relationship with you. A leader's mission is to bring people closer to God and His ideal. Listen to the reactions and responses of your members; God may work to use such occasions to inspire you. His guidance is precious and often comes through unique ways. God may be trying to fill you with new understanding, something which would enable you to change. God has directly inspired Father on countless occasions; he humbly accepted God's directions and suggestions. Furthermore, Father looks for ways he can learn from all people. The element of humility then is a fundamental one for leaders to adopt.

**T**he person in a leadership position determines the pace for all members under his care. It is ideal if he himself exemplifies a high personal standard. If a central person has problems, his members may also experience difficulties. In this sense, leadership is a great responsibility and a heavy burden.

**I**f as a leader you desire to cultivate a parental heart, you must start by taking responsibility. If you feel personally accountable for everything happening within your church community and even the world and then act accordingly, you will naturally develop a parental heart and grow in the depth and breadth of quality love.

**A** leader will find himself in a precarious predicament if he is put on a pedestal by his members. A member who idolizes a leader too much builds up a certain image of the leader in his mind. That same member,

however, may become disillusioned if the leader does something which is "out of character" to that image. Leaders would do well to refuse to set foot on a pedestal. The best way for them to take true responsibility for others is to be as understanding and compassionate as a peer, yet extend a warm parental heart, and constantly give out love.

A spiritual leader who takes responsibility for the people entrusted to him, must protect them with his life. He should always make sure that they are taken care of, and prevent Satan from reclaiming any of them. Instead of being concerned with himself, a leader should always find ways to render acts of kindness to others.

Although it seems there are great benefits attached to a leadership position which make it seem quite appealing, it is not necessarily a desirable position to seek. It is certainly not an easy position to fulfill, especially in terms of the amount of responsibility entailed. The more responsibility a leader accepts, the more freedom he loses because he automatically becomes more occupied with public needs. Father is a prime example. He can do nothing apart from the will of God. He is a public servant who works for the sake of humanity. Yet once the will of God is fulfilled, True Father will be the freest man in the universe.

Anyone who accepts great responsibility for world restoration will eventually receive incredible blessing. But such a person definitely sacrifices his earthly life in some ways. Unless a leader acknowledges this point and willingly makes an offering of his life for God and humanity for the purpose of building the new world, how could he ever receive the power to do it.

A leader who takes responsibility for either a territory or people, inevitably faces tremendous difficulties. He must recognize every individual's value, seeing how important each life is to God. He must understand the point that no one has the right to tamper with another person's spiritual life. He should be really serious about loving every member under his care. Leaders often serve as gates to either spiritual advancement or decline; in that way, the position of a leader is extremely consequential.

Leaders should not expect to *find* Heaven on earth during this period

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of history; harboring such hope might lead to personal disappointment and anguish. Rather, a leader must accept the responsibility to carry the load of others and thereby *create* a bit of "Heaven" here on earth. Ideally, a leader would not take the time or energy to worry about himself, because instead he would continuously sacrifice himself for others. And in order to represent God well and manifest His power, a leader should be close to Him.

Each of us has the primary responsibility to prepare ourselves to qualify as the link—the gate to the new Jerusalem—for all the generations that lived before us. In order to do this, we must become true leaders and develop the qualities they possess.

We are doing very little to reimburse God for the grace He has already bestowed upon us. Even though we must invest our total energy and strength, all our efforts comprise only the bare minimum of what we should actually fulfill. Among billions of people, we have the privilege of being called at this time. We are among a select few who become central people at this time in history. Upon our backs we must carry the burden of all humanity—past, present, and future generations. The responsibility upon the shoulders of leaders is grave. We must become the leaders of all mankind; there is no other opportunity, we must make ourselves ready.

All of us are leaders in some way. We Unificationists are "leading" mankind back to God. We have been called to be the forerunners, those who show others the road. No, it is not a very pleasant task. Father himself has said it is natural that a leader will feel miserable most of the time. We may think that especially because we are all coming closer to God, even a leader should always feel happy. This is not necessarily the case. Once the Kingdom of Heaven is erected, of course that will be true. But at the moment we are still assembling the building materials.

Someone has to carry the burden. We are those "someones." The one who leads must pull others with him. Consider that you have a big rope over your shoulder. People are hanging on that rope, not necessarily walking upright, but some are stumbling along. Some are even being *dragged*. The main point is they need you. It takes all their strength just to hold on, but even if it takes all your might to pull that rope, you *have* to keep on pulling. It is a job which can cause torment and anguish, so it is rather normal to feel burdened.

Heaven can be brought down to earth only when the hearts of the people who have the magnetism to do that are filled with love. No matter the size of the group, it is the responsibility of the leader to inject the love of God into each member for whom he is responsible. A leader's love should represent the love of God. When members feel such love, they will be happy people, and willing to go the extra mile to accomplish great results. When you can be sensitive enough to uplift them, they will feel understood, cared for, and happy to unite with you.

The position of leaders could be likened to "bone," while that of followers could be said to represent "flesh." The responsibility of the flesh is to cover and protect the bone. If there is no protection around the leader, he becomes much more vulnerable to the attack of Satan. In this way, all leaders and blessed couples should work fervently to protect True Parents. All the concentric circles of blessed couples should form an impenetrable wall of protection around True Parents and other leaders. Each couple has a portion of responsibility in attending the needs of True Parents.

The true leader is not necessarily the person occupying a leadership "position." A true "Abel" will offer the greatest effort to the public cause. The one who can transmit the greatest spirituality in the most natural way possible, will be able to lead and receive support from everyone else.

It is unnatural when a relationship between subject and object is primarily comprised of elements such as resentment or disrespect. The leader should be in the position to comprehend the meaning behind the words said by a member, as well as discern what is left unsaid. If a person does not reveal his true self to his central person, the reason may be **due to** communication problems. If such difficulties exist because a leader is incapable of leading in certain areas, however, the members may feel irreverence and even frustration. Friction between people is nothing new; it has existed since the time of Cain and Abel. To really become one with God, however, we must fulfill and work to restore those positions.

As a leader, you have a lonely job. People both above and below you in the hierarchy may complain about you. You are absolutely in between the rock and the hard place. No matter which way you turn, you always

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have to repent, because you feel your offering is never quite adequate. To generate harmony and effect peace and unity is not an easy job; not everyone is good at it. And no matter how many good intentions you may have, Satan continues to try to invade those people who occupy leadership positions.

To be a responsible leader takes guts. The kind of strength to which I am referring, however, has many faces. Be strong yet sensitive in pointing out what should be changed in a person's character. Members may be overly sensitive or have a more horizontal viewpoint than the leader, but if a leader and member can get on the same spiritual wave length and united in heart, both will be able to view the situation and each other with the eyes of God. Then the member will gratefully accept any direction given by a leader. Obstacles may arise if one of them looks at life with a more vertical viewpoint, while the other views life from a more horizontal base. Problems can also originate if one is sensitive, and the other insensitive. Despite that situation, the reason for such communication does not change. At all costs, the leader must push or sometimes pull the member back to God. After all, that is the real purpose of leadership, and not at all an easy task. Praise alone will never transport someone back home to the bosom of God. A leader must develop the spiritual sensitivity to determine when it is appropriate to praise, and when it is more beneficial for him to urge the person to step in a certain direction.

**T**he leader of a center, team, business enterprise, etc. is the pivotal point, and through his words and deeds harmony will either be created or disintegrate. The leader has to be the example, not just using beautiful words, but showing members what a son or daughter of God is like. Intuitively the members consider their leader as a kind of role model, and will follow the pattern shown by him.

If you as a leader become humanistic, those who are entrusted in your care will probably also relate on that level. This could hurt many of them, especially those who have an intense desire to reach higher levels, but cannot because you hold them back.

**T**he Principle explains that the one in Abel's position is closer to God and should naturally have more compassion for those in the Cain position, even empathizing with their predicament. Through prayer and insight, he

should develop compassion, and spiritually elevate those members who are weak. As a leader, you can help your members recognize that their vulnerabilities and spiritual fragility are only temporary. Toss them a lifeline of hope, and strengthen their good points. Teach them how to fill in the "holes" of their weaknesses. Shield them with love until they are able to stand on their own feet, solidify their faith, and recommit their lives.

Unity is necessary and something which a leader should strive for, but it must be understood that *both* leader and member have a responsibility to cultivate harmony. Yes, the member should "unite" with the direction of the leader, but by the same token, the leader should be understanding and forgiving. The member should be encouraged not to judge himself even more harshly or lower his own self-esteem because of his mistakes, misunderstandings, and inadequacies. Absolution given with sincerity and kindness is most effective. Creating unity involves such a delicate blending of attitude and the Principle—on the part of the leader and the member.

Perhaps there is an unnecessary set of implications attached to the title of "leader." The person who occupies that position is actually only an elder brother or sister. Not a dictator to be feared or someone who is totally unapproachable. Superior and subordinate need one another. The Principle reiterates this time and again. Both are in need of forgiveness. Both are in need of salvation. Both need to reach perfection. Yet it is often so tempting for either to feel it is possible to approach God alone. Of course each of us has our own personal and private relationship with God. That is something no one can either take away from us or replace. But God is able to relate to and become involved in our lives when both principles of leadership and "followship" are heeded. The leader must be the one to offer God the fruit of the mutual results gained by both himself and the members. Yet God cannot feel satisfied unless the members are spiritually supportive of the leader. Leaders have tremendous responsibility to avoid repeating Abel's mistake of insensitivity when making an offering.

leader is like the first goose flying in the V-formation. He suffers the most resistance to the winds. He must be the greatest pioneer, always ahead of everyone else. Whether or not he likes that position, is able to do it, is up to doing it, and is happy or sorrowful while doing it, does not really matter; he still should be the one to inspire and to uplift. To do that takes a great reserve of strength. Unless he is close to God, and draws power from Him, he will find it hard to be successful.

As a leader, I have always preferred to be with those working on the frontline. Father is also attracted to the people who are the pioneers, those who spearhead the cause. I always visit members while they are working, and I visit those working on the frontline most often. I feel it is most important that all members become inspired and spiritually strengthened, as well as learn Father's tradition. I want to be there with all of you, spurring you on, encouraging you, wiping away those invisible tears that you don't let me see. I feel this tradition is the most important part of my mission. I want to leave something behind in this nation, something tangible, and something that stays inside your heart long after we part. Something that will help you be strong enough to stand in and accept the responsibility for this nation. To me, that is the duty of a leader.

### ***Points on Leadership***

Father has said that a leader has to collide with the ways of this world in order to establish a new historical tradition. A leader must learn about the whole universe, yet at the same time, strive to grasp an understanding of the hearts of his people. It is not an easy task to develop a compassionate heart for people, putting himself in their situation, and trying to understand what they face. It is only after a leader truly comprehends an individual's situation that he can actually help him. A leader who only sits in the background and gives orders will never be beckoned into the hearts of his people. Leaders must sensitize themselves, turning their hearts into stethoscopes in order to listen to the hearts of others. Leaders should endeavor to decipher the coded message given out by the spiritual heartbeat they detect.

The idea of "leadership" does not merely involve leading people. It actually has a much broader meaning. If a leader only views leadership as a job, he may easily become stuck in the mundane, unable to do greater things in the future. Our spiritual life is a marathon race, and we constantly have to re-pace ourselves. What would any of us gain if we quit the race before reaching the goal? It is important for leaders to reiterate this concept to their members; leaders would do well to set a proper stride now, in order to achieve major results in the future.

When a leader is in doubt about how to proceed he should consult

others, seeking answers to his questions. After discovering those answers, he should ask even more questions. If he never asks questions, he cannot discover solutions. Satan uses a person's lack of spiritual stimulation to ease him into laziness and reluctance. If the person develops strength of character as well as nurtures his ability to lead many people, however, God will be able to use him on a higher level.

It is important for leaders to listen to the feelings their members express. When a leader does this, his sensitivity will naturally deepen. If something unprincipled is in the making, a leader should object and intervene, not as a judge, but as a parent. A central person should not get lost in superficialities but keep a serious heart even when he laughs and jokes, and direct the conversation back to the matters at hand.

If leaders talk extensively about God and True Parents, their members will do the same. Yet if they engage in horizontal conversations or behavior, *that* is the kind of behavior pattern their members will imitate. It is not appropriate for a leader to be overly humanistic, and tolerate everyone doing as he pleases. The standard is the word; leaders should live by it and enforce it, encouraging their members to also live in accordance with it. They should use wisdom, yet be careful not to compromise. They must guard against inconsistency between their words and deeds; it is when members see those elements harmonize within their leader that they will more easily accept and accomplish what is asked of them.

If a leader has an "I did" attitude, he must examine his motivation. He should instead feel it was a "we did" action. A wise leader will glorify the members, not himself. There is no possibility that a result was solely accomplished by a leader. Without the support of the members, the leader could do very little. Every member works hard, and leaders should testify to their efforts.

If as a leader you become coarse and unspiritual and do not live according to the Principle, you will eventually have less and less spiritual power, and it will be difficult for you to make a positive impression on others. If you are a dictator and order people to be active, they will never be moved or inspired by your example.

It is essential that you govern or lead people through the channel of love, not the way of judgment. Be careful not to become a tyrant. The people entrusted to your care will make mistakes and then probably feel guilty and upset with their inability to do better. If they can feel your love—rather than your wrath—even at those times, they will grow more quickly. Once they receive your forgiveness, they will ultimately forgive themselves. If you want to lead people, you have to love them, and be a parent to them. If you have no desire to love members, but are only focused on fulfilling the goal, there is little chance that you will help or liberate them. And by the same token, neither will you achieve the results you hoped for.

The cross of love that you as a leader must bear is to tell the people some things you would prefer not to convey, realizing how much it may hurt them. Nevertheless, despite the pain it causes to you and your members, the basic motivation of your words and deeds must always be that of love. It is easy for someone to accept a leader who is like a fountain, continuously flowing with love; people feel cared for by a leader who loves them. In such a case, the members intuit that the leader does what he does out of his love for God and his desire to see them make progress in their spiritual growth. Yet an obstacle is created if a member does not perceive the love given by a leader. Even though the leader is on God's side and pours out love to the members, the leader then appears unacceptable. Every leader gives out certain elements of love; that is not the issue. The question is whether or not the members can perceive the love that is bestowed.

We can no longer just pray in the name of True Parents and push the responsibility, of achieving success for God totally on the shoulders of True Parents. They cannot continue paying indemnity on our behalf forever; we are now in the children's age, and they leave that task to us. Leaders act most responsibly if they initiate personal indemnity conditions, as well as institute indemnity payments on behalf of the entire church community. The time period for indemnity is not yet finished, although Father encourages us to pay indemnity through hard work rather than focusing exclusively on fasting and praying. Through our conscious efforts, restoration, can advance more quickly. Therefore, leaders especially must become serious about the mission. If we fail now, we will postpone God's liberation and the redemption of mankind. And if we do not win this war, the next generation will have to undergo tremendous suffering.

For God to bless the efforts of all members, it is essential that at the end of every day, leaders offer to God the results which were achieved. It is a small point, but one that should never be neglected by a leader.

**G**iving sermons and spiritual guidance is a significant aspect of leadership. Speak more about the Principle, and speak more qualitatively than quantitatively. Come across with the power of God; don't try to merely fill in time. Coordinate your spirit and body through the expressions you use, as well as your timing.

When you speak, emphasize certain words or sentences. Elevate beautiful words and then allow others to see the picture you created with them. Your emotions and the tone of your voice play a great role in this. You will come to realize that the words you speak are God's words, not your own. Through your voice and behavior, you must, lead people to bow before God and gaze at the spectacle of the word portrait you just constructed for them. Be a teacher and a sage. Invite God to come into your midst, and show everyone just how special He is and how to emulate Him.

**F**ather has emphasized how essential it is for leaders to be well organized. Without good organization, time, resources, and money may be lost. If a leader does not possess the fortitude to exercise self-discipline, he may become very insecure about his own leadership, even losing perspective or his ability to guide others.

**A** leader who has a weak prayer life is sure to be pursued by Satan. And any leader who does not tap the reservoir of God through prayer will have less power to accomplish his goals. Yet the leader who prays a great deal *will* make headway. Guided by the tender love of God, he will receive answers to his prayers. Prayer provides the insight which discloses the will of God. The energies a leader expends in humble, tearful prayers will carry his congregation. The leader who prays for others with sincere tears, will eventually see those people walk the road straight into Heaven.

**L**eaders should never fail to educate their members; they should talk about their own personal experiences with True Parents and other leaders, pointing out what God taught them through the struggles and trials they encountered. Lessons of faith taste sweeter when they are shared.



People in leadership positions must become sensitive. At times, they must also become quiet, and work to calm the spiritual atmosphere. They have to develop their spiritual senses, even learning to speak in a softer voice, and forgo any desire to be the center of attention through boisterous talk or actions. A leader should be much more focused on heightening the spiritual atmosphere, and striving to stimulate conversations of a more spiritual than horizontal nature. One tip to help uplift and enhance the spiritual ambiance in a church center or any home, is to play classical music. Of course there is nothing wrong with a leader talking about the world situation, the happenings in the sports world, developments in modern technology, and the like, but members must see that rather than focusing on a football hero, it is best to develop into a person who is able to shed tears for others.

Father has often said that the strongest leaders are the best leaders. They are the ones who are able to see the goal and continually point out that aim as they lead everyone in the race. At the same time, the best leaders also take care of the runners—checking to see if their brows need to be mopped, watching to make sure they don't trip, bringing them water when they are thirsty, and so forth.

Think back to the leaders you have had. No doubt you can recall different types—both strict and permissive. Leaders who are "soft" will allow you to do anything and may be externally pleasant and easy to get along with, but Father actually seeks to build up leaders of quite a different caliber. When you eventually achieve your purpose of self-perfection, you will be thankful to anyone who helped you get there. But you ultimately will be most grateful to the strongest leaders and teachers you had, because they were the ones who kept pushing you toward the goal.

As a leader, you have to pray. You have to meditate. You also have to *mediate*. If you feel love for God and True Parents, you can attract the good spiritual world. There are many good spiritual beings who cooperate with each level of leadership, however, the responsibilities attached to leadership also draw Satan and evil spirits. They work to destroy whatever is built up by invading and influencing whatever possible. Leaders first of all must be aware of this situation and do something about it. If a leader thinks on the universal scale, he can more easily deal with his responsibility. If he thinks on a small level, self-centered spirits might surround him and give him trouble, inducing selfish thoughts and behavior.

Keeping the standard of the Principle is most important—in the life of an individual, family, nation, or world. A leader who runs a tight ship pushes his members because he himself is driven by God. He feels compassion and love for people, and wants them to overcome and do the will of God. If he sets the standard of principled life, the members have to strive to overcome their fallen nature. Yet if a leader allows compromise, he has one foot in Satan's realm and one in God's realm. No leader can do anything by himself. It has to be a cooperative effort of fellowship displayed by both leader and members.

**T**he key to being a good leader is to allow God to work through us in order to connect people to the Messiah, not ourselves. God can never accept the results made by a leader who has achieved certain goals, but then takes all the credit for what he accomplished. Whenever you as a leader receive praise, always return it to God immediately. Step aside and make sure God comes into the limelight instead of you. God is the one who does everything through us; He is the one who shares His grieving heart with humanity. We are but His instruments.