



True Leaders in Challenging Times



Ron Coverson/MBA

Leadership and the Credibility Gap

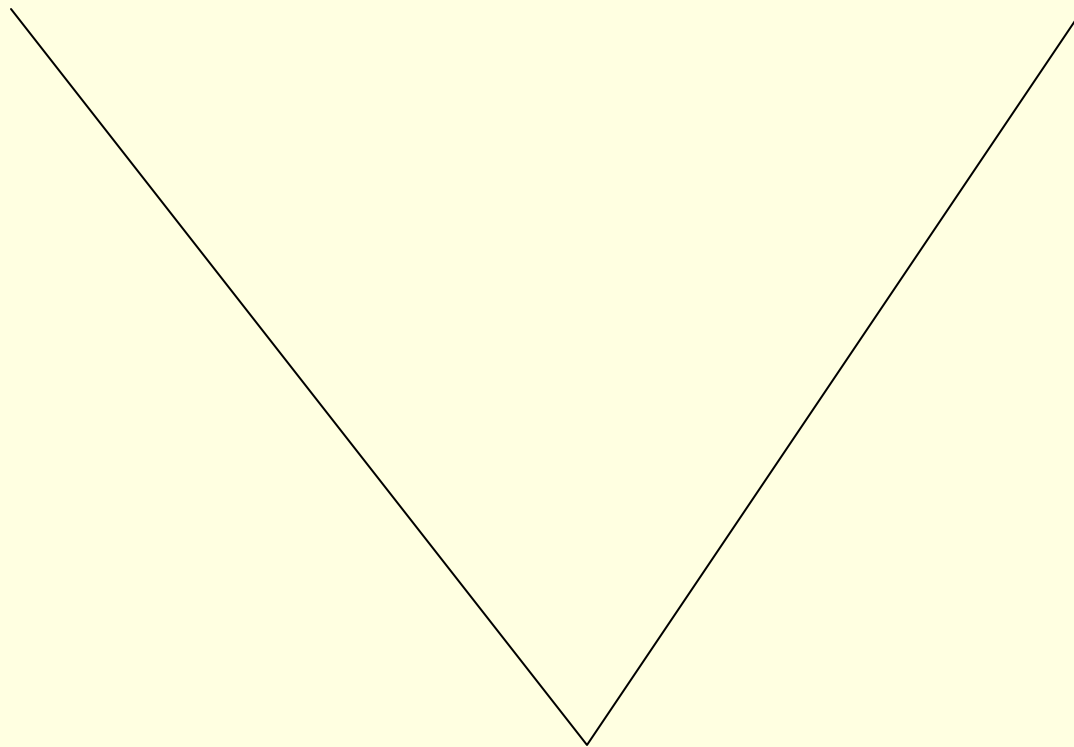
Examples of the Credibility Gap

- The man from the Treasury Department comes knocking...he is from the IRS and he says: “Hi, I’m from the IRS and I’m here to help.”
- John McCain may have lost the election the moment he appeared on national television and told each and every American citizen in September of 2008 that the “fundamentals of the U.S. economy are sound.”

Leadership and the Credibility Gap

Walk

Talk



Leadership and the Credibility Gap

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CONGRUENCE

What is a true leader?

- The Credibility Quotient (CQ):
- The Latin root of the word "credible" means "to believe". A credible person is someone we believe in. Credibility is earned through consistency and doing what you say you will do.

True Leaders emerge in times of great Adversity

- Moses—paradigm shift
 - From "you mean I'm not Pharaoh's son..." to...
 - "You, my man, are now God's Man so tell Pharaoh to let my people go!"

- David—paradigm shift
 - From a shepherd protecting sheep from lions and bears to a shepherd/king who was called to protect the people of Israel from the army of Philistine giants.

- Deborah—paradigm shift
 - From the distinctive role as an honorable woman among women or "Wise Mother" as she was known in her early days in Israel to Prophet/Judge/Deliverer who in a time of war turned the apostate nation of Israel toward the face of Jehovah God.

True Leaders emerge in times of great Adversity

- Esther—paradigm shift
 - From a *Trophy Wife* to savior of her people
- Christ—paradigm shift
 - From Gethsemane to the Cross that broke the back of Satan's strangle hold on humanity emerging as the *Resurrection and the Life*.
- **What did these individuals all have in common?**
 - At some point they were all altered by the conversation they were in with God and translated by a Kingdom perspective and corresponding assignment.

A certain Hebrew definition of a leader is found in the song of Deborah and Barak:

- “That the leaders took the lead in Israel, that the people offered themselves willingly, bless the Lord!” Judges 5:2
- To take the lead here literally means to “let your hair hang loose.”

Hebrew definition of a leader

- “That the leaders took the lead in Israel, that the people offered themselves willingly, bless the Lord!”
Judges 5:2

The second part of this verse speaks to...

- the issue that all the people gladly cooperated—
offering themselves willingly.
- The Hebrew verb is nadab which is obviously an action word related to the noun referring to a “freewill offering.”

7 Primary practices of true (godly) Leaders

- All seven traits are relational in nature. The first group (three in all) are *positional* in the way a pillar is positioned to hold weight. The second group (four in all) emphasize *flexibility* or movement. The Chinese refer to this as “woo-wee” or flexible structures.
- Like this building in Taipei designed to withstand high winds and typhoons.



7 Primary practices of true (godly) Leaders

(adapted from the work of Kouses' and Posner's "Five Practices of a Leader")

True Leaders...

- **Model the Way of the Lord**
(engaging earnestly in Father's Business
Father's Way)
- **Inspire a Godly Vision**
(breathing in and breathing out God's directives)
- **Challenge conventional wisdom**
(Being respectfully bold and courageous in the
Public Conversation)

7 Primary practices of true (godly) Leaders

(adapted from the work of Kouses' and Posner's "Five Practices of a

Leader")

■ True Leaders...

- **Empower others to act**
(entrusting authority to another)
- **Encourage the heart**
(demonstrated emotional intelligence)
- **Teach through situational opportunities**
(dojo discipleship)
- **Guide others by Wisdom**
(strategic and tactical applications of biblical principals)

True Leaders recognize that everyone makes a difference

All people matter. You matter. I matter. It's the
hardest thing in theology to believe.

--G.K. Chesterton

True Leaders and the Power of Trust

- Trust is a function of:

$$\frac{\text{Credibility} + \text{Intimacy}}{\text{Risk}}$$

True Leaders and the Power of Trust

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Time

True Leaders and the Power of Trust

- Trust is a function of:

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Risk

Time

True Leaders are Men and Women you can count on

- This is about Character or weight bearing capacity.

True leaders are willing to risk it all for a cause greater than themselves

- What is it that you are not willing to risk for the people God has called you to lead?
- How much more credibility and or intimacy do you need from or with God (relationally) to be the leader who is willing to risk all for the cause of the Lord and His Kingdom?

True leaders are able to hear what the Spirit is saying and respond obediently

- Listening to God in prayer and cultivating the ear of a disciple (Luke 9:23) raises our spiritual sensitivity level to the point that we can hear God in everything from the still small voice to a movie like “Chariots of Fire.”

Summary point:

A Leader's Success is Built on Relationships

- **There is no such thing**—in a functional business operation—as unimportant work, just people working in a certain role who *are led to believe* that they are unimportant.
- **Leaders succeed** when they recognize the significance of each person's humanity and potential contribution to collective achievement.
- **Technology succeeds** when it's engineers and proprietors recognizes its users are human.
- **Employees succeed** when they recognize their work involves interacting with human beings in alignment with leadership and in context C/4.