



Timely Information for Personal Success

10 Commandments for Business Leaders

By Michele Wierzgac

There are many theories about leadership ranging from vision to self-awareness to service. The simplest way to develop leadership skills is to have a work ethic mixed with a solid foundation of core values. The 10 commandments listed below will work as a guidebook to inspire staff, increase workplace morale, and lay the foundation for a successful organization.

1. Be truthful

Any leader aspiring to greatness must do two things all the time—*listen* and *tell the truth*. Leaders who inspire own up to their mistakes and correct them as soon as possible. They do not blame others for their error. And when someone comes up with a brilliant idea, they give credit where credit is due.

2. Be consistent

Like an actor on a stage, business leaders perform on a stage. They must lead with high energy, all day, every day.

3. Be empathetic

To start using empathy more effectively, it's vital to see things from another person's point of view. Inspirational leaders then validate the other person's perspective and examine their own attitude. True leaders are more concerned with finding a solution than in being right.

4. Be generous

Business and personal relationships are everything. Every relationship needs to be a two-way street.

5. Be strong

Inspirational leaders bring a light to someone's life. They become a message of hope and encouragement to their staff. Encouragement comes from focusing on the strength of another person to drive their motivation and perform at a higher level, which adds value to the organization.

6. Be articulate

Effective leaders are able to articulate and clarify what many of us have been thinking on a given subject. Inspirational leaders seek and inspire excellence, not

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Healthy Recipe: Roasted Lemon Salmon Fillets

INGREDIENTS:

- 4 six-ounce salmon fillets
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- ¼ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- Juice of one lemon
- 1-1/2 tablespoons olive oil

NUTRITIONAL VALUE:

- Calories per serving: 244
- Protein: 34 g.
- Carbohydrates: 1 g.
- Sodium: 585 mg.
- Fat: 11 g.
- Saturated fat: 2 g.

DIRECTIONS:

- ➊ Season salmon fillets with salt, pepper, and lemon juice, then drizzle with olive oil.
- ➋ Preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit.
- ➌ Place an oven-proof sauté pan large enough to accommodate all the fillets over medium-high heat. Add salmon and sear the fillets for 3 minutes per side.
- ➍ Place in oven to finish cooking, about 5 to 10 minutes more, depending on the thickness of the fillet.

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perfectionism. (Legendary Packers coach Vince Lombardi once remarked that his team would never be perfect, but in pursuing perfection they would *catch excellence*.)

7. Be approachable

Inspiration business leaders are accessible, and they demonstrate it with appropriate body language because how they appear to others is paramount. Some people exude a fear of authority, but it is their responsibility to remove any such barriers and establish an environment of trust.

8. Be a brand champion

Anyone who is passionate about a common interest will create an attractive personal style of interaction, and inspire their team to become involved and take an interest. They become a brand champion, a supporter, and a cheerleader of sorts for the business. In return, the leader becomes a brand champion *for them*. Passion for a common purpose brings people together and ignites warmth.

9. Be a genuine spirit

Inspirational leaders know how to communicate effectively. They talk to people. They listen to what they have to say and what they actually mean. Sometimes those two can be completely different things. Listen intently with an open mind; try to add value to the conversation wherever possible. Everyone has a gift—inspirational leaders bring the best out of everyone.

Among many other lessons of the heart, Leo Buscaglia reminds us, “*Love is open arms. If you close your arms about love you will find that you are left holding only yourself.*” Remember, some people are unreasonable and self-centered....love them anyway. Inspire them.

10. Be credible

Reputation is about *earning* credibility, not expecting it. One way for a leader to earn credibility is to keep their promises. Another way is to be honest. Actions speak louder than words. If they are credible and honest, their personal brand will sell naturally. Most people agree that there is a direct correlation between a person’s reputation and his or her success. How effectively someone represents themselves in public often determines what they will accomplish in your life. A name can open....and close....doors.

As an inspirational leader do *you* have commandments that you work and live by? What do they look like?

Michele Wierzgac is a leadership expert, keynote speaker, and author of the book, “Ass Kicking Women: How They Leverage Their Informal Networks For Success.” Michele conveys sound leadership solutions and promotes audience engagement and on-your-feet participation. She promises her audience that they will leave her solution-driven keynotes and workshops with at least one passionate, life transforming leadership tool. For more information on Michele Wierzgac, visit: <https://micheleandco.com>.