

Good Leaders Are Good Followers

A young woman was filling out an application for college when she came across the question: Are you a leader?

She thought she had better be brutally honest, so she answered, “No.” She was convinced when she sent in the application that she’d never hear from the school because of that answer.

But she received a letter from the institution that read: “We have reviewed numerous applications and, to date, there will be some 1,452 new leaders attending school next year. We have decided to accept your application because we felt it was imperative that they have at least one follower.”

Should all of us be leaders *all* of the time? Isn’t there a time to follow as well as lead?

One man likes to tell about the day he purchased a novelty sign and hung it on his office door. The sign read: “I’m the boss.”



The next day, he came to work and noticed that the office comedian had affixed a sticky note to his door that read, “Your wife called. She wants her sign back.”

Commenting on that story, Steve Goodier – an ordained Methodist minister and founder of *Your Life Support System*, a widely read newsletter – said the man may be the boss at work, but home is different altogether. “In marriage and family, as well as most social relationships, sometimes we lead and sometimes we follow the lead of another. If the so-called boss happens to be an effective leader at work, he probably learned that getting his own way all of the time does not produce good results. As it turns out, the best leaders are also excellent followers.”

Goodier listed three reasons why:

1. GOOD LEADERS SHARE LEADERSHIP. They know when to follow and when to lead.
2. GOOD LEADERS BUILD THEIR SKILLS ON FOLLOWING ROLE MODELS FOR THE BEHAVIORS THEY WANT TO LEARN. What they admire in another, they copy.
3. GOOD LEADERS EXHIBIT HUMILITY. They remain open to suggestions. When they need it, they ask for help and follow good advice.

In other words, good leaders are also good followers. They know when to follow in the footsteps of others and when to leave tracks of their own.

(more)

You may be the boss, but you will be a leader when you learn how to follow.

And in the spiritual realm, we are followers of that Servant Leader, Jesus Christ.

Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith (Hebrews 13:7 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter

